

OPERATION ORPHAN

Anthony Loyd's mission to save Albanian children
PAGE 16



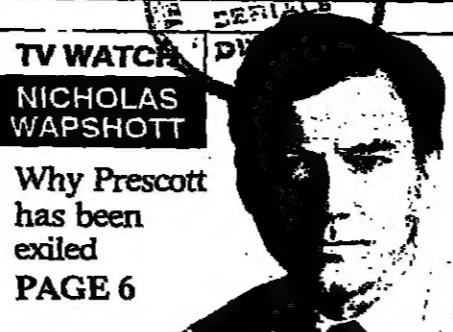
LYNNE TRUSS

My night of shame in Monaco
PAGE 46



TV WATCH

NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT
Why Prescott has been exiled
PAGE 6



TOMORROW

COACHING FOR LIFE
America's newest growth industry
weekend



PAUL RICHARDS/PA

Commons tirade over sleaze 'stunt'

Major lets rip at Blair and Ashdown

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

JOHN MAJOR unleashed a venomous assault on Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown yesterday that reflected his belief that they had hijacked the final days of Parliament with a stage-managed row over sleaze.

Conservative backbenchers bated with delight as Mr Major delivered a personal tirade against Mr Blair, accusing him of trading on double standards from the moment he was elected leader, selling policies to the unions, flying on Concorde and failing to declare it, and calling for openness while refusing to publish the secret funds of his private office.

He then turned on the Liberal Democrat leader, telling him that he was ending the Parliament as pious and pompous as he had been

throughout it, and that the attempt led by himself and Mr Blair to force the publication of the Downey report on cash-for-questions had been a stunt. Labour and Liberal Democrats, however, intensified their charges that the Commons was rising today to avoid the Downey report being delivered to MPs next week.

The explosive question-time exchanges came after the interim report on the affair left ten Tories under a cloud of suspicion while clearing 15 MPs — 11 Conservative, three Labour and one Liberal Democrat — of improperly receiving money through their constituency parties from the lobbyist Ian Greer.

But the clash between Mr Major and Mr Blair came over Mr Blair's repeated de-

mands that the Commons should sit on so that the full Downey report could be published. As Mr Major refused to change his plans, Mr Blair declared that his handling of the affair left a stain on the character of his Government. Mr Major retorted that Mr Blair and his front bench were guilty of having "smeared and smeared and smeared again".

The Prime Minister was

reported by close ministerial friends to be genuinely furious that the sleaze issue had come back to distract attention from good employment figures.

But the way he allowed his pent-up emotions virtually to run out of control in the Commons delighted his backbenchers, and he was given a back-slapping reception in the Commons tea-room.

The mood of Labour MPs as they prepared to leave for the election was perhaps more justifiably upbeat after another poll gave their party a 27-point lead over the Conservatives. They described Mr Major's performance as a "rant" that made him look more like an Opposition leader than a Prime Minister.

To press home their charges that Mr Major had deliberately suspended Parliament early to avoid the Downey publication, the opposition parties tabled a one-clause Bill which would give the Standards and Privileges Committee power to sit until the dissolution on April 8. It will make no progress.

The Cabinet meanwhile put the final touches to the Tories' manifesto for a fifth term. It is reported to be half the length of the 1992 document, although it was slightly enlarged yesterday to include the provisions lost from the education and crime Bills this week.

Ministers will highlight the specific policies lost as an example of the significant differences between the Tory and Labour party. The new additions include proposals for expanding selection and a commitment that grant-maintained schools will be set up in nurseries, sixth forms and boarding facilities.

The programme will also restore mandatory minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers.

Senior party sources said the three main themes of the manifesto would be economic stability, social stability and constitutional stability.

Although senior Opposition figures voiced anger at the delays, some of the MPs involved were less irritated by them. Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, facing claims that his constituency association received £1,000 from Ian Greer, the lobbyist, told friends that the delay was "an annoying distraction" that would not affect his campaign.

Matthew Parris, pages 2, 20
Televised debate, page 8
Nolan call, page 9

Philip Howard, page 20
Leading article and
Letters, page 21



Sir Gordon: regrets delay

TEN Tory MPs have investigations hanging over them as the Commons rises today for the general election.

A Commons investigation into accusations against 25 MPs failed yesterday to decide on the ten Conservatives, provoking claims that the inquiry was taking too long.

Neil Hamilton, the former Trade Minister, is among the Tory MPs whose cases will not be concluded until at least May, when the new Parliament begins. A huge report into allegations against him will be completed next week, but will not be published until the new House sits.

Mr Hamilton, who is accused of failing to divulge cash payments from Mohamed Al Fayed, chairman of Harrods, complained that the report into the allegations had not been finished. Mr Hamilton, MP for Tatton, said: "I need to be able to clear my name of these false allegations and my constituents need to know that their MP is not a crook."

Among the more serious allegations that have been left pending are those involving Tim Smith, a former Northern Ireland minister, Sir Andrew Bowden, Michael Brown and Sir Michael Grylls.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, published a short interim report yesterday, saying that it was "clearly a

matter for regret" that some of his investigations had not been finished. He insisted that failure to conclude reports into some of the allegations did not imply guilt, but that they had been less straightforward than the other 15.

The report cleared 15 MPs of wrongdoing, including Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, after they were accused of failing to declare payments made into their election campaign funds. Most of the MPs are fighting the election campaign but Sir Michael Grylls is not standing.

Although senior Opposition figures voiced anger at the delays, some of the MPs involved were less irritated by them. Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, facing claims that his constituency association received £1,000 from Ian Greer, the lobbyist, told friends that the delay was "an annoying distraction" that would not affect his campaign.

Matthew Parris, pages 2, 20
Televised debate, page 8
Nolan call, page 9

Philip Howard, page 20
Leading article and
Letters, page 21



President Clinton after being lowered from Air Force One on to a Finair catering lorry at Helsinki airport yesterday when he arrived for a summit with President Yeltsin. Mr Clinton injured his knee recently in an accident at the golfer Greg Norman's home in Florida. Pages 11, 21

Councils free to stop providing home help

BY IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS can stop providing disabled people with home help if their budgets are used up, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

The Law Lords overturned a Court of Appeal decision that once care had been agreed, it had to be provided however short of money a council became. They backed by a majority of three to two an appeal by Gloucestershire County Council and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary.

Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead said that a person's need for help "cannot sensibly be assessed without having some regard to the cost. A person's

need for a particular type or level of service cannot be decided in a vacuum from which all considerations of cost have been expunged."

In a dissenting judgment, Lord Lloyd of Beswick blamed Gloucester's difficulties on shortage of money from the Government. "The council has escaped from an impossible position in which they and other local authorities have been placed," he said. "Even if the council wished to raise the money to meet the need, it would be unable to do so by reason of Government-imposed rate-capping."

The 1970 Act to provide care for the chronically sick and disabled was a noble aspiration, he said, but the money

had to be found to pay for it. "Having willed the end, Parliament must be asked to provide the means."

The ruling affects all local authorities in England and Wales and people who rely on them for services, including cleaning, shopping and the provision of meals and housekeepers.

The case began in 1994 after Gloucestershire withdrew services from 1,500 residents to save money after the Government required it to cut £2.5 million from its annual budget.

An appeal, backed by the Public Law Project and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, was brought on behalf of Michael Barry, an 81-year-old stroke

victim. Mr Barry had lost his house cleaning and laundry provision because of a shortage of funds, although he kept two-weekly home visits and meals-on-wheels.

The High Court ruled that it was impractical to expect councils not to make cuts if their budgets were reduced, but that decision was overturned by the Court of Appeal last June.

In yesterday's judgment, Lord Clyde said availability of resources could be a determining factor. "If my resources are limited, I have to need a thing very much before I am satisfied that it is necessary to purchase it," he said.

But Derek Vizer of Voice of the Disabled said: "This decision is not just tragic for some it will be fatal. Unfortunately the Law Lords don't have to pick these people up off the floor or they would realise what a terrible thing they have done. I am going to take this case on to the Court of Human Rights. The people who are being hurt by this are people who fought for England and now they are old, the country tells them they are too expensive to look after. It was supposed to be a service from the cradle to the grave. The grave is nearer than it was before this judgment."

Age Concern and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation both described the ruling as a devastating blow for thousands of people.

Shares suffer year's biggest one-day fall

BY MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

LONDON shares suffered their biggest one-day fall this year, with the FTSE 100 index of leading stocks closing 74.1 points lower at 4,253.1.

The index stands 186 points down from its all-time closing high on March 11, with all but 20 points of that stamp occurring this week after John Major confirmed that the election would be on May 1.

The latest fall was prompted by a warning from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, that American rates would have to rise to pre-empt a resurgence in inflationary pressures.

The reaction of London dealers illustrates the anxiety of financial markets as the

prolonged election campaign unfolds. Brokers are standing by for a correction of markets that have risen strongly over the past two years.

Yesterday's sell-off happened despite news that UK retail price inflation fell in February. Headline inflation edged lower to 2.7 per cent from 2.8 per cent in January, while underlying inflation fell from 3.1 per cent to 2.9 per cent.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 50 points before recouping some losses to stand around 35 points lower at midday.

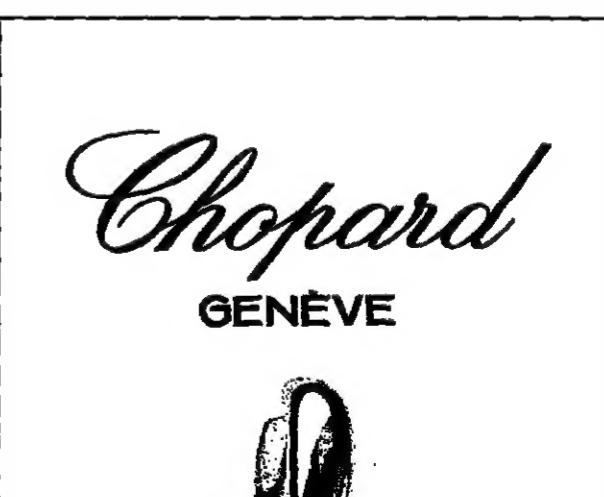
Shares tumble, page 28
Markets, page 28

Shares tumble, page 28
Markets, page 28

Page 5

Oporto shooting

The Foreign Office demanded a report from Portuguese police, who fired rubber bullets at Manchester United fans after their 0-0 draw with FC Porto.



Big spenders consign the cardigan to history

BY ALAN HAMILTON

AS A men's fashion statement, the woolly cardigan with buttons down the front is as dead as the kipper tie. Now, in a final coup de grace, it has been thrown out as one of Britain's key economic indicators.

For years, cardigans — perhaps best modelled by the singer Val Doonican who went through various styles and shades on his television show — have been one of 600 items whose costs are monitored to compile the monthly retail price index, an important tool used by governments in calculating inflation.

They have been removed from the statistician's shopping basket in favour of a dressier item, chinos — those light-weight casual cotton trousers invented by

an English army officer in India to counter the heat of the midday sun, and now seen in every British weekend summer high street.

Some hairy linkingers in the folk memory between cardigans and light ale: they jointly belong to an age before red braces and computers, when men had time to potter. Light ale and pale ale, once RPI staple indicators, have gone too, replaced in the theoretical but supposedly typical basket by alcopops and draughtflow bitter — those cans of beer with widgets that give them a head.

The Office for National Statistics, which compiles the RPI, said yesterday that the index was constantly updated to reflect market conditions, and what society was doing. It covers a variety of

expenditure, including food, housing, clothes, leisure, motoring, fares and fuel. Among other changes is the arrival of road tolls but the dropping of super-unleaded petrol; not enough people buy it.

Two other new, but not surprising, items are in — Internet and cable television subscriptions, and the purchase of CD-ROM computer software.

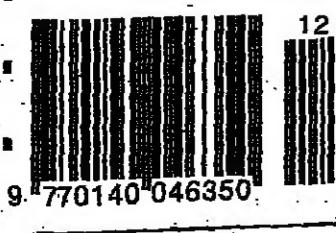
Significantly, government statisticians have decided fees and subscriptions are now a more important part of the RPI; at the same time, they have downgraded the importance of spending on UK holidays. The simplistic conclusion is that we are surfing the net rather than the ocean's waves. What with all those subscriptions and tolls, small wonder there is nothing left to spend on cardigans.



Doomed: cardigan king

Buy The Times overseas
Australia \$1.40, Belgium \$2.50, Cyprus
£1.20, Denmark Dkr 1.80, Finland
FIM 4.00, France 500 francs, Greece Dr 500,
Netherlands Fl 5.50, Italy L 5.00,
Luxembourg 500 francs, Malta 1.50,
Norway Kr 20.00, Portugal Crs 3.50,
Romania 1000 lei, Sweden Kr 25.00,
Switzerland Fr 5.00, Tunisia Dlr 2.20, USA
\$1.50.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



12

TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORD 24, 48

LETTERS 21, 43
OBITUARIES 23
MATTHEW PARRIS 20

ARTS 35-37
CHESS & BRIDGE 43
COURT & SOCIAL 22

SPORT 41-46, 48
EDUCATION 38
LAW REPORT 34

only by Chopard — HAPPY DIAMONDS®
a unique concept becomes a classic

The fascination of mobile diamonds in an exclusive watch and jewellery line. Pendant and earrings in 18 ct yellow gold / diamonds, ref. 79/1771-20, 83/1869-20. Available at leading jewellers worldwide. London: Chopard Boutique, 14 New Bond Street, Tel. 0171/409 31 40. For further information, catalogues and stockists, please call 0171/446 63 63

Law lord's son waged vendetta

Vandal barrister scratched cars in revenge attacks

By JOANNA BALE AND FRANCES GIBB

THE barrister son of a former law lord faces professional disgrace after he repeatedly vandalised two cars belonging to neighbours after a parking dispute.

Police arrested Hugh Donovan, 63, after setting up a 24-hour surveillance camera which recorded him creeping out of his house at night to scratch a Porsche 911 and a Range Rover belonging to Mark and Tracy Girling. The cars were parked in an affluent tree-lined street in Fulham, southwest London, where residents say parking is at a premium because the houses do not have drives.

During interviews with detectives, Donovan admitted damaging the cars with keys on eight separate occasions and may be disbarred at a Bar Council disciplinary hearing. West London Magistrates' Court was told on Wednesday that Mr and Mrs Girling complained to police that their cars had been repeatedly vandalised outside their £450,000 terraced Victorian home since an argument with Donovan in the street on December 23, 1995.

Adrian Foster, for the prosecution, said Donovan admitted damaging the cars for revenge after an altercation where he "called into question their parking and driving ability". Donovan, who was called to the Bar in 1959 but stopped practising as a barrister six years ago, pleaded guilty to two counts of criminal damage. Dressed in a pinstriped suit, he told the court that he was representing himself and handed over a letter of mitigation to the magistrate Dudley Thomas, which was not read out. When asked to explain his financial circumstances, he handed over a letter from his accountant.

Mr Thomas said: "Taking into account the matters you have put before me, I will take a preventative course of action to make sure you do not do

this activity again." Donovan was given a two-year conditional discharge with £30 court costs. He was also ordered to pay £7,441 compensation to the Girlings which he said he could pay within three months.

The barrister, who lives seven doors down from the Girlings with his wife Margaret, a schoolteacher, has two adult children. A Bar Council spokesman said: "There is a possibility he could be disbarred as a result of that hearing."

Residents in the narrow road lined with Victorian terraced houses, said that parking was often a problem because there was only room

• People do get very wound up about not being able to park near their houses •

for one car per household. James Stafford said: "Many people here own two, even three cars per household, so it is a terrible problem in the evenings when everyone comes home from work."

"People do get very wound up about not being able to park near their houses. My car has been accidentally scratched a couple of times by people trying to squeeze into tiny spaces. However, that does not justify vandalism. It is a common problem of living in the middle of a big city."

Another neighbour, who declined to be named, added: "Mr Donovan is a very volatile man and I have had run-ins with him myself. He has even banged on the door to complain about my television being too loud." Another add-

ed: "He is a lovely man. We have known him for the last 18 years. They are a fine upstanding Catholic family. It is extremely sad for him. I am sure he will be devastated."

Mr and Mrs Girling were

abroad on a skiing holiday

and unavailable for comment,

but one neighbour said: "They

are a nice young couple with a small baby. This has been a

nightmare for them and they

are just glad it is all over."

Donovan's father, Lord

Donovan, was a Law Lord as

well as being chairman of the

Royal Commission on Trade

Unions and Employers' Asso-

cieties.

Apart his judicial career

(High Court from 1950-60,

Court of Appeal from 1960 to

1963 and a Law Lord from

1963) the late Lord Donovan

was active in Labour politics.

In 1950 he was elected for

North East Leicestershire

and while the Labour Party was

still in power was offered a

judgeship. But it was his

chairmanship of the Royal

Commission on Trade Unions

and Employers' Associations

which made his name.

The Donovan report, as it

was known, was the first into

the problems of industrial

relations for more than 60

years and was set up because

of the rise in the number of

strikes. But the report rejected

strong legislative regulation of

industrial relations. He died,

aged 73, in 1971.

Ironically in Donovan's

time at the Bar, at which he

became known for his work in

planning disputes, the barrister

found himself in one of his

last cases acting on behalf of a

group of residents complain-

ing about neighbourhood traf-

fic in the middle of a big city."

Ironically in Donovan's

time at the Bar, at which he

became known for his work in

planning disputes, the barrister

found himself in one of his

last cases acting on behalf of a

group of residents complain-

ing about neighbourhood traf-

fic in the middle of a big city."

Teenage mother wins court backing for truancy

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MAGISTRATES yesterday gave their backing to a schoolgirl mother who has skipped lessons for the past 18 months to look after her son. Kelly Turner was 13 when she fell pregnant and last attended lessons two months before the boy, Jake, was born.

Kelly's mother, 33-year-old Mandy Turner, was cleared of failing to send her back to Middlefield School in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, after the birth. The Turner family successfully claimed they were offered no adequate long-term care for Jake, leaving Kelly with no alternative but to stay at home to look after him.

Lincolnshire County Council, which brought the prosecution, claimed the family were determined all along to oppose all its help and said it feared the case created a significant precedent. It raised the spectre of education authorities losing the power to order the hundreds of schoolgirls who fall pregnant every year back into the classroom.

Kelly, who lives with her mother, said: "I told the council I would go back to school, but only if they would help me provide proper care for Jake."

Mrs Turner, who faced a possible fine of up to £1,000 or a jail sentence if convicted, said that the family were relieved the case was over. Mrs Turner said: "Kelly always stated that she wanted to go back to school if they could provide her with a permanent minder. But she was left with no alternative but to stay off because they would only provide help for two months.

"Her son comes first, and she was not going to have him passed between people like a parcel. What sort of mother would I have been if I had stopped her?"

Andrew Jay, the family's solicitor, said: "The council refused to offer long-term assistance in looking after Jake, and then to add insult to



Kelly Turner and her son, Jake: she has not attended class since her pregnancy

injury, they actually prosecut-

ed Kelly's mother."

Lincolnshire social services offered to provide two months of childcare for the baby and the school was willing to rearrange Kelly's lessons to fit in with her own

babysitting plans. Jeff Deakin, the county's education

decision by the town's magistrates "went against the law of the land".

However the council does not plan to appeal because Kelly turns 16 in a few weeks and will be legally allowed to leave school.

Mr Deakin said: "This case could be of significance up and down the land. Magis-

trates, in considering the balance between Kelly in her role as a parent and Kelly in her role as a pupil, has concluded it is the former that must take precedence."

The Department for Education last night said that it was unable to comment until it had received details of the case.

Mr Cameron told the jury he had been upset to see the trees being cut down. When he spoke to the council foreman he was told that Mr Butler had complained about falling branches. Mr Butler then suddenly appeared from behind his hedge and attacked without provocation.

The trial continues.

'Blessing traumatised boy of 12'

By RUTH GLEDHILL

A BOY aged 12 was so traumatised by a church youth weekend that he was unable to eat for 24 hours and could only speak in monosyllables, according to a report today in *The Church Times*.

Eleanor Theyer said her son Adam suffered a charismatic "indocinisation" when he lost consciousness after two worship leaders laid hands on his head and body during a weekend organised by her local church. Although the church was not Anglican, the phenomenon involved, known as the Toronto Blessing, is spreading throughout the evangelical wing of the established Church. When the blessing is invoked worshippers jump up and down, faint or laugh on bark like dogs.

Writing under an assumed name to protect her son's identity, Mrs Theyer compared the events of the church weekend to the mind-control techniques of cults. "I had never heard of the Toronto Blessing," she said. "My feeling on learning of what had happened was one of outrage. I felt that my child had been abused."

Mrs Theyer complained to her minister, who contacted the youth leaders concerned. They promised that the Toronto Blessing would no longer be invoked during youth activities.

Elegant widow, 74, was the victim of ritualistic killing

By LIN JENKINS

AN ELEGANT wealthy widow who was half stripped, bound hand and foot and stabbed to death was the victim of a ritualistic killing, police said yesterday.

Alice Rye, 74, died after letting her attacker into her detached home in the village of Spital, Merseyside. There were no signs of a struggle but she was taken into the spare bedroom, her hands tied behind her back, a bandage put round her neck and stabbed in the chest.

Police said elements to her injuries suggested that the killing in December was ritualistic with a sexual motive, but would not say if they believed there were religious or satanic overtones.

Detectives said that Mrs Rye had meetings in a pub during the two years before she died with a man in his 60s who was unknown to her family and friends. They issued an artist's impression of the well-dressed man. The couple used to meet in the lounge of a pub on the edge of a council estate close to the M53, about ten miles from her home.

Mrs Rye, the widow of a company director, used to accompany her husband on business trips to China, Africa and Japan. She was described

as was strikingly attractive and immaculately dressed.

Staff and customers of the Twenty Row Inn, Wallasey, recall the elderly couple who differed from the usual clientele as they sat in an alcove having ordered a pint of bitter and a glass of white wine.

Detective Chief Inspector George Denton said the man appeared refined, smartly dressed and well-spoken, with a round face and white thinning hair.

"The visits were in the afternoon, midweek, but there was never any regular pattern," he said.

"The pub concerned could have been some midway meeting point for Alice and some former colleague. This is not the typically type of pub she would frequent."

Suggestions that these meetings might have been clandestine trysts with a gentleman are pure speculation. It could be that the pub was a convenient halfway point at which she arranged to meet up with a personal friend from her past, or business associate.

"Certainly at their age we would consider any friendship which she pursued was purely platonic. We have got to remain open-minded about it, but if this man can be ruled out of our inquiries it will certainly assist us."

Tagged thief used monitor as free phone

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A THIEF who had been electronically tagged tapped into the BT line linked to the equipment to make 61 free telephone calls to his family. Stewart Palgrave was a social man who liked making calls to his mother and brother, his solicitor told Norwich magistrates yesterday.

The bill for the calls made by Palgrave, 32, of Heathgate, Norwich, had to be paid by Geografix, the firm carrying out the tagging experiment throughout Norfolk.

Palgrave, a fruit packer, had been fitted with an electronic bracelet around his wrist and a telephone line was installed to his flat, where he was under curfew for offences of theft and attempted theft.

John Pitt, for the prosecution, said the line into the flat was attached to a

monitoring box with a fitted antenna. An electronic signal is sent from the bracelet to the antenna if the curfew is broken, which Palgrave did on several occasions. The information is transmitted down the telephone line to the monitoring station.

Last September it was discovered that Palgrave had been tampering with the equipment. Mr Pitt said: "He had interfered with it so he could make personal telephone calls along the BT line. It seems he had another line and had tapped into the line." He said that the calls were billed to Geografix.

Palgrave had also snatched the antenna off the monitoring box, the court was told. Katharine Moore, his solicitor, told the court that he had been "curious" about the technology. She added: "He is

a social man. He was phoning his mother or brother". Palgrave led a chaotic and disorganized life and was unsuitable for electronic tagging linked to a curfew order, she added. He broke his curfew on 14 separate occasions, once for just six minutes.

Magistrates jailed Palgrave for four months after being told of his "awful performance" while under curfew. He was sentenced for the original offences for which he had been curfewed and a separate theft he admitted.

Andrew Hone, head of monitoring services with Geografix, said outside the court: "There are now a number of safeguards on the lines to prevent this happening. I would not like to say exactly how he did it."

Man of 75 denies attack on woman aged 84

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WAR veteran aged 75 punched a woman of 84 in the face when she tried to break up a dispute he was having with her son, a court was told yesterday. Marguerite Cameron plunged into a flower bed, suffering cuts to her face and knee, and bruises to her chest, it was claimed.

Her alleged assailant, Philip Butler, was arrested by police and told them he was also assaulted, with rubber dustbin lid. Mr Butler, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, denies assaulting Mrs Cameron, causing her actual bodily harm.

Andrew Barnet, for the prosecution at Winchester Crown Court, said the incident happened on a pathway behind Mr Butler's home when council workmen began cutting down trees. There was a dispute between Mr Butler and Mrs Cameron's son Alan, a neighbour, who is in his fifties.

Mrs Cameron saw Mr Butler pushing her son and went out and told them to stop. Mr Barnet said: "Mr Butler punched her in the face sufficiently hard to push her back, causing her to fall."

Part of a garden cane became embedded in Mrs Cameron's face and she had to have an operation to remove the splinters. After his arrest Mr Butler told police he had been pushed and fell on Mrs Cameron by accident.

"He claimed he had been hit with a rubber dustbin lid

Wounded fans say tactics by Portuguese police nearly caused another Hillsborough

Britain demands explanation on United shootings

BY JOHN GOODBODY AND ADRIAN LEE

THE Foreign Office yesterday demanded a detailed report from Portuguese police, who opened fire on Manchester United fans with rubber and plastic bullets.

Supporters returning from their team's match against FC Porto in Oporto on Wednesday night complained of police brutality that left 18 fans needing hospital treatment. Uefa, the European football governing body, began an inquiry into the violent events that marred United's 0-0 quarter-final clash, which was attended by 10,500 English supporters.

Delfim Passos, the Oporto police chief, said: "We fired plastic and rubber pellets in the air and on the ground to contain the English fans. We did not use excessive force. We have a clear conscience."

He told a press conference: "The police were obliged to act because of the situation created by the United fans." He said that 18 police officers had been injured, one seriously, as United supporters threw chunks of china from smashed stadium lavatories.

In the most combustible incident involving an English club in European football competitions since the 1985

Heysel stadium disaster, fans also alleged chaotic organisation. They said police behaviour might have caused another Hillsborough disaster. Fans were treated for crush injuries, bruising from batons and pellet wounds.

United, which won the two-leg European Cup quarter-final 4-0 on aggregate, set up its own investigation while the Foreign Office ordered a full report from Portuguese police.

The disciplinary committee of Uefa will discuss its independent observer's investigation on Tuesday.

When shocked United fans arrived back on charter flights at Ringway Airport, Ashley Maddock, 15, from Chester, displayed a foot-long weal across his shoulders. He said: "People were being pushed in a funnel, and they could see there was no escape. You either took your chances of being crushed or faced the police, who did not want anyone to leave the area."

Ken Farrimond, one of United's security managers, said: "It could have been another Hillsborough." He described the shepherding of thousands of visiting fans down a narrow cobbled back-street before the game to just three turnstiles as

United supporters threw chunks of china from smashed stadium lavatories.

In the most combustible

incident involving an English club in European football competitions since the 1985

uncannily accurate prediction from Marilia Astie, one of the British Embassy staff from Lisbon sent to monitor the event and to attempt to diffuse the situation in advance: she said there would be 10,000 Manchester fans for whom only 6,400 tickets had been allocated.

On to the stadium, to the main event in which United were to be praised for ensuring that FC Porto fired only blanks. Immediately outside the Estadio Das Antas, one saw the first riot squad excess. A group of youths was baying at the militia, one officer of the law lost his discipline and cracked his baton heavily on to a shaved head. Before kick off the score was 20 injured,

three taken to hospital and at least one with baton wounds. The problem outside the ground was scarcely known to us, even though security staff were in radio communication throughout. But at the end of the game, a red flare was lit on the United terrace. Immediately afterwards a rocket was fired.



A Manchester United supporter with a plastic pellet fired by police; they can break the skin and cause shallow wounds

'An indiscriminate weapon'

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE plastic pellets fired at Manchester United fans are favoured by several European police forces. About a quarter of an inch in diameter, they are much smaller than the plastic baton rounds, commonly described as bullets, used in Northern Ireland. They are contained in cartridges which scatter about 15 pellets when fired.

The Banelli anti-riot pellets

are designed to be shot into the ground to bounce up or at legs. They can break the flesh and leave shallow wounds. Supporters in Oporto showed injuries to their lower bodies and arms. One man was hit in the head.

One expert said yesterday that he was amazed that the pellets, which travel at 1,000 feet per second, had been fired at football fans. "They are totally indiscriminate and fired from close range can do a lot of damage. They are supposed to bounce up into limbs but

they can easily hit the face or the eye." The practice of firing into the ground and bouncing the pellets into targets is known as "skip firing".

In Northern Ireland, 16 people have been killed and more than 500 injured by plastic bullets, which were first used in 1973. They have never been used on the mainland. In skilled hands, baton rounds are regarded as more accurate than pellets and it is possible to pick out individual trouble makers.

As head of the communications committee, he would have expected to be one of the first to know. "Until yesterday, I knew absolutely nothing about this advertising initiative," he said. "I recognise that it is an attempt by individuals to make creative use of television in order to encourage people to go to Church. But I am convinced that, as far as the Church of England is concerned, we simply cannot go on creating this kind of publicity without reference to other people in the Church."

Bishop McCulloch will be calling a meeting of all those involved in church advertising to formulate a coherent policy for the future. He said: "The impression is being given that what these two dioceses are doing has the full backing of the Church of England. But the communications committee of the General Synod had at no stage been informed about this initiative."

Alcohol and police inexperience made trouble predictable

The Portuguese police may have been unprepared, but that is no excuse for the drunken misbehaviour of so many English football fans, says Rob Hughes, chief sports writer



three taken to hospital and at least one with baton wounds.

The problem outside the ground was scarcely known to us, even though security staff were in radio communication throughout. But at the end of the game, a red flare was lit on the United terrace. Immediately afterwards a rocket was fired.

If the fans were all innocent, why had one brought such a weapon, similar to the rocket which killed a spectator at Cardiff Arms Park a few seasons ago?

Within seconds of that, we heard the first volleys of gunfire. There were two specific rounds, and though some officials tried to shrug

it off as fireworks, the overworked medical staffs were deployed taking out five wounded United fans. Even then the police were insisting: "Not a single shot was fired."

Even then some of the walking wounded were showing to the press the pellets, small and perfectly round like peas, and the announcements, in English, were repeatedly calling for calm, instructing the United followers to remain in their set cages until the police could ensure their safe removal.

But it was the police themselves who the fans now feared and those Mancunians taken away in wheelchairs were too frightened to give their names. After the evacua-

tion, Graham Kelly, the FA Chief Executive, perpetuated the illusion of English innocents being fired upon irritably by foreign police forces. Mr Kelly had not been on the trip, but he took the judgment that the English are victims. They are, many of them, but when will this country stop exporting so-called supporters, fuelled by drink and without legitimate tickets, and then blame foreign police forces for not coping in the same manner as our own?

They have, abroad, no real experience, no grounds fully monitored by closed circuit cameras, and not the ease of language or the past history of isolating troublemakers.

£1 off
Shakespeare's Othello.
(Not a bard offer.)

LAURENCE
FISHBURNE KENNETH
JACOB BRANAGH

Othello

1997

1997

1997

1997

1997

1997

1997

WHATEVER YOU'RE INTO, GET INTO WHSmith

WHILE STOCKS LAST. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT WHSMITH VIDEO STOCKISTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES. PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS EXCEPTED.



Credit Card Booking Line
0990 111 555
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

UP TO 25% OFF
YOUR NEXT
WINTER HOLIDAY

ITALIAN ALPS

FROM

£157

COSTA DEL SOL

FROM

£149

Book your next winter sun or ski holiday now
with Thomas Cook and you'll get the widest
choice of destinations and accommodation,
as well as saving up to an amazing 25%.
And, we're delighted to be celebrating the
5th birthday of DISNEYLAND® PARIS, so if
you book your next winter holiday now, we
will give you a voucher worth £1.00 off a
Thomas Cook Holidays Disneyland Paris
break. So, hurry down to your local
Thomas Cook shop, or book by phone on
0990 777 555 or see Teletext page 268.

The nice surprise
is the prices.

Thomas
Cook



PLUS

BOOK YOUR NEXT
WINTER HOLIDAY NOW
AND THEN
SAVE
£100
ON A DISNEYLAND
PARIS BREAK

Deaths from new CJD strain 'may run to thousands'

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousands of people may die from the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the brain condition linked to BSE, scientists said yesterday.

A year to the day since the Government admitted the likelihood of the link, the scientists told the first national conference of relatives of CJD victims that it was still impossible to predict how many people were likely to die. "We still have to say that there is a range from the odd 100 or so cases right through to tens of thousands," John Pattison, Professor of Medical Microbiology at University College London, said.

Dr Pattison, who heads the Government's advisory committee on CJD and BSE, said at Warwick University that the number of cases of the new strain of CJD arising in the next two or three years would be crucial.

On March 20 last year, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, disclosed that ten cases of a variant of CJD with a distinctive brain pathology, had probably been caused by eating beef contaminated with BSE. Since then six more cases have been diagnosed.

Peter Smith, Professor of Tropical Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said: "It would be premature to assume that there would be no

big epidemic of the new strain of CJD simply because no more than 16 cases had been confirmed so far."

The key uncertainty, Professor Smith said, was the length of the incubation period. If this varied widely between individuals, there could be a surge in the number of people developing the disease. "If the number of cases in each of the next three years is roughly constant, and less than about 20 a year, a final size of the epidemic may well be a few hundred cases or less."

If there are 25 or more cases confirmed this year, with a doubling or tripling in each of the following two years, that would be compatible with... an epidemic of many thousands of cases."

Exposure of the public to contaminated meat is thought to have occurred in the mid-1980s before safeguards were introduced, suggesting an incubation period of about ten years in those who have died from the new strain. It differs from the classical form of the disease in attacking people under 40.

The scientists said if a typical incubation period turned out to be no more than ten to 15 years, the total cases of the new disease would be relatively low. But it was possible that those who had died had a genetic susceptibility which caused the disease to develop more quickly.

Dr Pattison said: "It may be that the cases we have seen so far are a small group of people with a short incubation period, for reasons we do not understand, and that the peak of the disease will be seen in later years."

John Collinge, a specialist in molecular genetics at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, told the conference that the evidence for a link between BSE and new-variant CJD was "persuasive" and should be accepted as a "working hypothesis". No cure for CJD was in sight. Professor Collinge said. But some forms of treatment were worth exploring. The most hopeful was the use of drugs to influence the behaviour of the mutant prion protein thought to cause the disease. The disease appeared to be caused when this rogue protein attacked its healthy neighbours.

The conference was organised by the CJD Support Network, set up two years ago to help families of victims by the Alzheimer's Disease Society. Dot Churchill, whose son Stephen, 19, was the first victim of the new variant and who died in May 1995, said: "All the families want to see a full independent inquiry into the Government's handling of BSE."

Mr Spratt, who hopes the scheme will be funded half by



How statues to Darwin, left, Brunel and Baird might look along The Mall. The site has not been decided

Scientists pick all-time Top 50

Monumental debate to choose the statues to British genius

BY ALAN HAMILTON

ACADEMICS were considering a monumental challenge yesterday: who should inhabit an avenue of statues honouring British inventive genius?

Iain Spratt, National Heritage Minister, wants to recognise Britain's long history of science and engineering achievement to mark the millennium. The trouble is, there are so many candidates.

Sir Neil Cossons, director of the Science Museum, has agreed to chair a committee to draw up an initial list of 50.

The site is undecided, but

might be on the South Bank or at South Kensington, among the museums and colleges built on the proceeds of the 1851 Great Exhibition.

Mr Spratt, who hopes the scheme will be funded half by

a National Lottery Millennium grant and half by private industry, said: "We have a proliferation of statues to actors, writers, soldiers, kings and queens, but the engineers, scientists and discoverers whose contribution has been equally great are seriously under-represented."

His own favoured candidates include the agrarian reformer Turnip Townsend, Sir Isaac Newton, James Watt and George Stephenson of the steam engine, Sir Frank Whittle of the jet engine, Sir Alexander Fleming of penicillin, Sir Christopher Cockerell of the hovercraft, the math-

ematician Alan Turing, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, John Logie Baird of television, and Barnes Wallis of the bouncing bomb.

A straw poll of scientists by *The Times* yesterday indicated strong support for the inclusion of Charles Darwin and of the Victorian mathematician James Clark Maxwell, whose contribution to physics is regarded as being on a par with Newton and Einstein.

Archie Howie, professor of physics at Cambridge University, made an appeal for Lord Rutherford, splitter of the atom, J.J. Thomson, discoverer

er of electrons, and Michael Faraday, the pioneer of electricity.

Sir Arnold Wolfendale, professor of experimental physics at the Royal Institution and a former Astronomer Royal, nominated the astronomer Sir John Herschel, discoverer of the planet Uranus, and Sir Charles Parsons, the Newcastle engineer who invented the steam turbine.

Dr Miriam Rothschild, the eminent biologist, loyalty nominated her father, Charles, who died in 1923: "He invented the whole concept of nature conservation."

Several scientists said that erecting statues to the dead was a waste of effort. They said the money would be put to better use providing scholarships to train the next generation of British genius.

Gene tests show killer flu came from pigs

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS have confirmed that the flu virus which swept around the world in 1918, killing 20 million people, originated in pigs.

Samples taken from the lungs of a young soldier who died in the epidemic provided enough genetic material to prove the hypothesis, says a report in *Science*. The investigation, by a team at the US Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, was made more difficult by the way flu stores its gene information in the form of RNA (ribonucleic acid), not the more stable DNA.

Most flu viruses are believed to originate in birds, usually ducks. They are passed to pigs, which is why so many originate in China, where ducks and pigs are raised in close proximity.

The new investigation shows that the 1918 virus, a particularly virulent one, was completely novel. Hardest hit by it were young adults, usually the most resistant to flu infection. The American team is to continue examination of the RNA samples to try to find the cause.

John Oxford, of the London Hospital Medical College, has begun a similar examination. A Canadian team plans to dig up seven miners believed to have died of the 1918 flu, who are buried in frozen ground in Norway. They hope the bodies will be well preserved that better samples can be obtained.

Officers for to racism

Dixons

THE UK's BEST-SELLING FINANCE PACKAGE

NOW AVAILABLE AT DIXONS

Quicken® DELUXE

The easiest way to organise your money

INCLUDES FREE QUICK TAX 97

Dixons Deal

£59.99

ALSO AVAILABLE
QUICKEN® 6 FOR WINDOWS

It's the easiest, fastest way to manage your bank account, credit cards, mortgages, loans, investments and savings, all in one place. Quicken 6 also tracks business accounts and calculates VAT automatically!

CD-ROM AND 3.5" DISK

Dixons Deal

£34.99

Dixons

There's a great deal going on

DIXONS - ALWAYS FIRST WITH THE LATEST SOFTWARE RELEASES

QUICKEN® DELUXE VERSION 6

Enhance your financial management skills with the UK's number 1 selling personal and small business finance software.

Features include:

- 32-bit enhanced power to help you get the most from Windows 95.
- New Multimedia tutorials.
- Quicken® Home Inventory letting you plan your home contents insurance.
- Quick Invoice - keep control of money owing.

PLUS

Free Quick Tax 97 - the easiest way to complete your personal tax return.
PC CD-ROM

Dixons Deal
£59.99

ALSO AVAILABLE
QUICKEN® 6 FOR WINDOWS

It's the easiest, fastest way to manage your bank account, credit cards, mortgages, loans, investments and savings, all in one place. Quicken 6 also tracks business accounts and calculates VAT automatically!

CD-ROM AND 3.5" DISK

Dixons Deal

£34.99

Dixons

There's a great deal going on

NEWS IN BRIEF
Diver wins £266,000 for accident

A diver was awarded £266,000 damages at the High Court yesterday for an accident which ended his career as an offshore worker in the North Sea. Philip Zammit, 39, was left dangling helplessly in 35 metres of water for 40 minutes after developing cramp during a six-hour dive. He suffered a psychiatric injury and developed a fear of water.

Mr Justice Garland agreed that Stena Offshore allowed Mr Zammit, of Southampton, to become so tired that he could not help himself. Mr Zammit said afterwards that he owed his life to Stephen Mudge, another diver.

Ideal home

Arlington Court, near Barnstaple, North Devon, was voted best historic house in the National Heritage Awards sponsored by the pensions company NPI. The 1820s National Trust building is the former home of the Chichester family. The previous winner was Chatsworth, Derbyshire. **Crane boy hurt**

A 14-year-old boy suffered leg injuries when he was run over by a mobile crane after he and five other teenagers broke into a Gloucester building site and drove the machine around. He suffered severe cuts and was taken to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, where he was in satisfactory condition.

Rustlers strike

Rustlers have taken 40 continental cross-breed steers from the Government's agricultural research centre at Hillsborough, Co Down.

They were put on a trailer during the night. A spokesman for the centre said the cattle were healthy and were being tested on a range of diets.

Lucknow sale

Two medals awarded to Lieutenant-Colonel George Biddulph, whose death at the second relief of Lucknow in 1857 was avenged within an hour by the killing of 1,500 Indians, fetched £1,325 at a Phillips auction in London.

Spiked food

Tinned food for hedgehogs, designed to supplement their diet of worms, slugs and beetles through the summer, is being sold at Safeway stores. The cans of Spikes Dinner contain crushed chicken carcass and include advice on feeding the animals.

CORRECTION

The European Communities (Amendment) Bill was sponsored by Lord Pearson of Rannoch and not, as reported on March 19, by Lord Taverner who led the opposition to the Bill.

No sweat, a little poison can be good

MEDICAL BRIEFING

TOKINS in botulism may soon be used to dry the hands, feet and armpits of the perpetually anxious and sweaty. Botulism poisoning may develop from four hours to eight days after taking food contaminated with the organism. Practically any sort of food is liable to contamination, but badly tinned vegetables, meat and fish are often the culprits. Victims develop double vision, drooping eyelids and a dry mouth, soon followed by difficulty in speaking and swallowing and eventually by a paralysis that includes muscles involved in breathing.

Over the past few years, preparations of botulinum toxin have been used for injection so as to deliberately paralyse muscles, such as around the neck and eyes, that have gone into spasm suffered involuntary movements. It is also used in cosmetic medicine to treat those whose brows are unnecessarily furrowed. Patients with palm injections may develop a minimal muscle weakness in the hands. Doctors are warned that injections must not be given at the same time as certain antibiotics, and that anaphylactic reactions - extreme allergies producing collapse - have been recorded.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

Renewing your home insurance in March or April and want to save money?

If you are 50 or over call free!
0800 414 525
quoting reference
TM3707

Lines open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 7pm
Saturday 9am - 5pm
Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about other Saga products and services and may use your details to offer Saga companies for this purpose

"Our Daddy phones us from England EVERY DAY!"

He says that it's so much cheaper with Oystel."

- GERMANY from 17p p/min
- JAPAN from 28p p/min
- NORWAY from 18p p/min
- AUSTRALIA from 19p p/min
- U.S.A. from 10p p/min
- INDIA from 57p p/min

Plus: Reliable Operation - Friendly Staff - Instant FREE Connection - FREE Itemised Billing - Use ANY phone

- 100's of other countries available.

For full details PHONE FREE NOW

0800 279 1500

Oystel Communications Limited

Berkshire House, 252-256 Kings Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4HP

Tel: 01734 569 123 Fax: 01734 569 100

Now the world's your Oystel

Price quoted are weekend rates per minute. Subject to VAT.

Officers under fire for tolerating racism in Services

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Navy has been accused of tolerating racism and not being entitled to call itself an equal opportunities employer. Efforts to recruit more personnel from the ethnic minorities were denigrated as "political correctness".

In a survey of the Armed Services and civil servants working for the Ministry of Defence, white sailors commonly admitted that they did not think black people were suitable for the Royal Navy. It was claimed that "they" did not like water, could not fight, and lacked educational qualifications. In the Army, black people were said to be "lazy" while Asians were considered "sly".

Some white naval officers made remarks such as: "Where would you pray to Mecca on a submarine?"

The survey, commissioned by the MoD from the Office for Public Management, a private consultancy, found evidence of racism in all three services. Helen Brown, one of the authors of the report, said that the MoD was "among the worst ministries" for attitudes on race relations, although she acknowledged that since the report had been completed last September, the ministry had taken steps to enforce equal opportunity policies.

However, Dr Brown said that the MoD had "a long way to go to catch up with the 1990s". One of the problems, the report said, was that senior officers in the services did not accept that racism existed, so they did not feel the need to tell those under their

command not to make racist remarks.

"We find it disappointing that there is still relatively little acknowledgement of the pervasive, long-running and deeply entrenched problem of racism within the Armed Services," the report said.

A senior official in the Ministry of Defence said that the report had raised serious issues and admitted that changes could not be introduced "overnight". The three Services chiefs, the Chief of

Services, the Chief of the Royal Navy and the Chief of the Royal Air Force, had been asked to review the report.

RAF had an unwritten rule of 'no blacks, Pakis, spots or specs' on VIP parades

Defence Staff and the Permanent Under-Secretary at the ministry were all, he said, committed to ensuring that racist attitudes were "stamped on".

The investigators found that, in the RAF, the unwritten rule for parades or guards of honour assembled to meet VIPs was "no blacks, Pakis, spots or specs".

Army officers interviewed by the survey team admitted that the typical officer was seen as white, male and middle class. The report said: "Racially offensive language, behaviour and attitudes remain

Major writes to officer's widow

THE Prime Minister has written to the widow of an army major killed in a grenade accident in Oman (Michael Evans writes). She had waited three years for the Ministry of Defence to respond to her pleas for compensation and details of how he died.

The case of Deborah Swift's struggle to find out how her husband, Tony, was killed in 1994 while on loan service to

the Omani Army as a weapons expert was highlighted in *The Times* yesterday.

Mrs Swift, 38, said that she had suddenly received letters from John Major and Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, offering to help. Mr Major told her the MoD had agreed to handle any claim for compensation and that ministry officials would be making contact with her solicitors "as I had a proper response."

a matter of urgency". Major Swift was killed at the age of 40 when the rifle-launched grenade he was testing exploded prematurely in June 1994. An Omani inquiry said it must have been a faulty grenade, but the evidence had been destroyed in the explosion.

Mrs Swift, of Fleet, Hampshire, said: "It makes me angry that only now have I had a proper response."

T.S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*, which was premiered at the 1949 festival in the poet's presence, with a cast



Bruno Walter and Kathleen Ferrier at the first festival in 1947; many international stars have followed

Edinburgh Festival revives its greatest hits for 50th birthday

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE Edinburgh Festival celebrates its fiftieth birthday this year with a look back at some of the classic performances from its history.

The organisers aim to recreate early hits using a new generation of artists this summer. Brian McMaster, the festival director, announced the programme yesterday and promised that the event would be "a real humdinger". There will be four world premieres among 100 productions running from August 10 to 30.

The festival, claimed to be the world's largest cultural event, has over the years attracted performers including Joan Sutherland, Margot Fonteyn, Marlene Dietrich, Luciano Pavarotti, Peter Cook and Dudley Moore.

Recreated highlights will

include Verdi's *Macbeth*,

which was the first opera

performed at the festival in

1947. Then the Glyndebourne Festival Opera brought the house down. This year the Royal Opera will present the original and rarely performed 1847 version.

T.S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*, which was premiered at the 1949 festival in the poet's presence, with a cast

including Alec Guinness and Irene Worth, will return to the stage with the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company.

Some momentous events, however, will not be reprised, such as an avant-garde "happening" in 1963 where the appearance of a nude on stage so shocked Edinburgh sensibilities that producer and model were prosecuted for indecency. They were defended successfully by the late Nicholas Fairbairn.

Apart from retrospective events, the programme includes a celebration of Gaelic culture, performances by an Aboriginal dance group and

a "monumental" Salzburg Festival production of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, directed by Peter Stein.

In the spirit of past festivals, attempts have been made to keep ticket prices low to enable people to see as much as possible. But while most productions start at £5, for the first time the top ticket price has risen to £50.

Mr McMaster, who took the helm at the festival in 1992, said he believed the ideals behind the event in 1947 were still present. Then, Sir John Falconer, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, wrote in the programme foreword

that the festival was "not a commercial undertaking in any way" but rather an endeavour to provide a stimulus to the establishment of a new way of life based on the arts.

Edinburgh hopes that visitors will refresh their souls and reaffirm their belief in things other than materialism," he wrote.

Last year saw record audiences and box office income of more than £2 million, as well as record sponsorship. As a result the year's projected £125,000 deficit was just £48,000. But Mr McMaster said: "Year on year we have taken huge gambles and so far we have been lucky."

In 1947 the festival budget was £130,000, the equivalent of £2.5 million in today's terms, which paid for 55 productions. The castle was floodlit for four days despite the fuel restrictions of the postwar era. In 1997 about £5.8 million will be spent.

Mr McMaster said his first visit to the festival in 1963 had been a seminal event. He wanted others to be similarly affected. "I believe that art can change people's lives. That sounds silly and pretentious, but I think the arts can touch people, make them live better lives and expand their emotional reactions."

Stonehenge tour train backed by English Heritage

By DAVID LOVIBOND AND ROBIN YOUNG

A TOURIST development for Stonehenge has been approved by government archaeology advisers, despite criticism from conservationists.

English Heritage has accepted the idea of a trackless land-train to tour the stones from a visitor centre. The proposal came from the Tussauds Group, which won the bid to build the new centre on the fringes of the World Heritage site.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the English Heritage chairman, said: "We would not do anything to destroy archaeology. The point is to save Stonehenge. At the moment, one million people are driving to within 300 yards of the stones. We will be trying to get them there in a way that is environmentally friendly."

An English Heritage report on the proposals acknowledges that some monuments would be damaged by the necessary works and that at least some of the route would be visible from Stonehenge. However, most of the two-mile route would follow existing trackways, and the land-train of linked carriages would not need rails.

The plan was criticised by Kate Fielden, secretary of Avebury Society, whose remit extends to Stonehenge. She said: "The established aim is to return the monument to its landscape and the emphasis is on removing extraneous features. It is simply not on to have a Disneyland railway in a World Heritage site."

The Wiltshire county archaeologist, Roy Canham, said that an original proposal for a short ride from the visitor centre to King Barrow would have allowed visitors "to slow to the pace of the landscape — including VDUs in the trains, as they do, they will offer a plastic experience."

The Tussauds project has been given agreement in principle by the National Trust, which owns most of the land. If the Millennium Commission also approves, English Heritage expects the first trains to run in 2000.

Notice to Customers

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

In order to change the prospectuses for National Savings Certificates to allow for the reinvestment of mature Ulster Savings Certificates, new issues will go on sale on Tuesday 1 April 1997.

The new 44th Fixed-interest and 10th Index-linked issues will have the same terms and rates as the current 43rd and 9th issues (which will be withdrawn on Monday 31 March) except for the changes below.

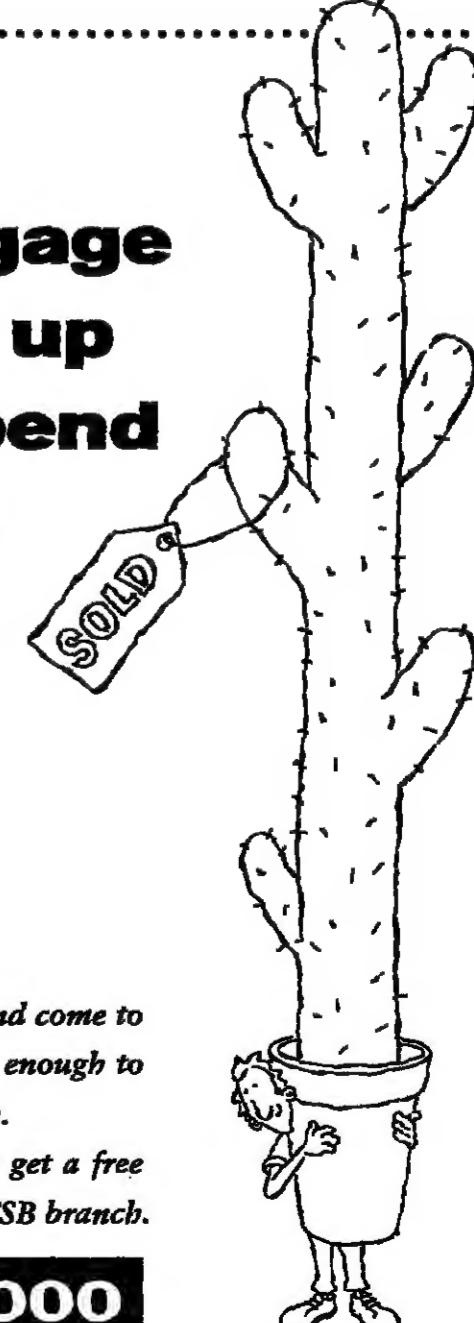
From Tuesday 1 April holders of mature Ulster Savings Certificates can reinvest into National Savings Certificates. This facility will replace the existing option of reinvesting into Ulster Savings Reinvestment Certificates, which will no longer be issued.

From Tuesday 1 April the current limit of £20,000 per issue on the amount that can be reinvested from the proceeds of mature Certificates will be abolished. Holders of maturing Certificates or earlier Certificates on extension terms can if they wish reinvest any amount in new five-year Certificates.

The holding limit for 44th Issue and 10th Index-linked Issue Savings Certificates will be £10,000 on each.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

With a TSB
Cash Gift Mortgage
you could get up
to £6,000 to spend
as you like.



If you need a mortgage, be totally sensible and come to TSB. You could get a cash gift of up to £6,000, enough to make your new home look like a million dollars.

Call TSB PhoneBank to find out more or to get a free quotation. Alternatively, you can call into a TSB branch.

Call free quoting ref. TIC2. 0500 758 000

Mortgages

Typical example: an existing TSB mortgage customer who is moving and taking out a new £40,000 mortgage on a property priced at £80,000. 300 monthly interest payments are £21,445 at TSB's standard variable rate, currently 2.25% (APR 2.7%). The total gross amount payable is £113,022. It is assumed that TSB Property Plus, TSB MortgageSure, TSB Homebuyers Plan and a Cash Gift of £1,200 have been taken. Typical fees included are legal fees £210 and a valuation fee £50. Tax relief at 15% on £50,000 is assumed. The monthly endowment premium is £31.45. Available subject to status on Endowment Repayment or payment basis. Minimum loan to qualify for Cash Gift is £16,001. TSB Homebuyers Plan is a unit linked qualifying endowment policy (please remember the value of units can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed). Full details of the TSB Homebuyers Plan are available from TSB Life Limited, Charlton Place, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1RE. The Cash Gift must be repaid if within the first five years the mortgage is redeemed or converted to another TSB mortgage. If the loan is partly redeemed, the Cash Gift must be repaid on a proportionate basis. Assignment/cessation of a suitable life policy may be required by the Bank as security. A TSB cheque account is required. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. All loans subject to status. Not available in the Channel Islands. Written quotations are available on request by calling 0500 758 000. Calls may be recorded and monitored. TSB Bank plc and TSB Bank Scotland plc are representatives of the TSB Marketing Group which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority only for TSB Life insurance, pensions, unit trusts and offshore investments. Advice or recommendations relate only to the investments of the TSB Marketing Group. TSB Bank plc, Henry Davson House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ. Registered in England and Wales. Number 1069264. TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Davson House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH. Registered in Scotland. Number 06292.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

TSB We want you to say YES

ITV regulator is likely to approve Blair-Major clash

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Independent Television Commission has suggested that it would approve a televised debate between John Major and Tony Blair, excluding Paddy Ashdown.

Senior sources from the regulator of independent television said that the latest proposals from ITV, under which the Liberal Democrat leader would be questioned separately, appeared to comply with its code on impartiality. The code requires broadcasters to show balance throughout the general election campaign, but this would not have to apply to every programme.

Yesterday the Liberal Democrats repeated their threat to take legal action if Mr Ashdown was not involved in a three-way debate. Lord Holme, who is leading the Liberal Democrat negotiating team, accused the Tories of deliberately trying to bounce the other parties into an agreement. He claimed that opinion polls had shown that 75 per cent of the public wanted to see the Liberal Democrats involved.

The Tory party, in its arrogance, is trying to bounce the agenda. I think it is disgraceful. We shall certainly resist it.

It would be more difficult, however, for judges to find in favour of the Liberal Democ

rats if the commission had raised no objection.

Under the latest plan, which appears to be favoured by both the Tories and Labour over a second debate from the BBC, Mr Ashdown would be interviewed but would not be pressing for his inclusion in a debate.

Derry Irvine, Shadow Lord Chancellor, is the head of Labour's negotiating team. Michael Dobbs, a former vice-chairman of the Tory party, is leading John Major's team.

Mr Major is still pressing for two or three head-to-head debates on the Sundays during the general election campaign.

The continuing dispute over the televised debate coincided with a new report claiming that such programmes had little impact on election results.

A paper, published by the Hansard Society, says that audience participation should be included in any debate broadcast during the general election campaign.

Under the BBC's plan, which the Prime Minister thinks is too rigid, he and Mr Blair would face questions from David Dimbleby. They would be asked six questions each and allowed two replies, each two minutes in length. Mr Ashdown would then be interviewed for 16 minutes, then there would be statements from all three party leaders.

Last night Labour said that it was prepared to negotiate with both channels. The party stipulated only that the format be legal and that there be an

agreement to have three main party leaders and separate debates for Scotland and Wales. Under this proposed plan all three leaders would be able to cross question each other.

The document, by Dr Stephen Coleman, an academic student of elections, also argues that no party leader "who can reasonably expect to win enough votes to become prime minister should be excluded from participating."

Dr Coleman's report proposes a debate involving all three main party leaders and separate debates for Scotland and Wales. Under this proposed plan all three leaders would be able to cross question each other.

The 30-page document gave details of Scotland's spending over four years of independence, with annual expenditure reaching £2 billion in the fourth year. The low rate tax

would be cut from 20p to 15p, but higher earners would be hit by the abolition of the ceiling on national insurance contributions.

To compensate middle earners, the level of income taxed at basic rate would be expanded by 15 per cent. The SNP would also cut VAT on fuel to 5 per cent and raise tobacco duty by 15 per cent and reduce spirit duties by 10 per cent. Pensions would rise by five per cent.

John Swinney, the party's

Treasury spokesman, said: "It is our aim in this election to switch the focus of economic debate in Scotland away from how we fare as a regional outpost of the UK, and towards what we can achieve as an independent nation."

An Edinburgh-based whisky company announced yesterday that it was dropping the SNP logo from the labels of its "Independence" blend because they were unpopular with hoteliers and public houses.

John Major has always professed his distaste for snobbery as perhaps befits a man whose childhood was spent among garden gnomes, then in rented rooms in Brixton, but he grinned smugly at the sneer.

"Who is meant by the bar steward I cannot imagine."

The TV camera scanned the Labour front bench but the man in question — Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, graduate of Ruskin College, Oxford, and merchant marine bar steward, late of the good ship *Fransonia* — was missing.

As the Labour press conference televised that morning revealed, John Prescott was in Falmouth, of all places, briefly beamed in live on a giant screen like Stuart Hall on *It's a Knockout*, surrounded by happy campers cheering on the People's Party.

During the six long weeks of campaigning, Prescott will be far from the centre, touring the country in his own personalised charabanc, the Prescott Express, covering 10,000 miles in pursuit of the votes which Tony Blair cannot reach.

She said in her resignation letter to the Prime Minister:

"As you know, I am deeply committed to continuing development work in Africa and now feel that I should do this independently."

John Major replied that she had brought to her job "a particularly effective combination of dedication, hard-headed analysis and genuine compassion. You have become not only a figure of world stature but also a close friend and trusted adviser of many international leaders."

minimum wage would cause a loss of jobs.

Mardell asked Prescott whether he minded being kept from the action. The big man beamed. "Do you think anyone can shove me out of the centre? You must be joking!" But his laugh was hollow. Already his role in a Labour government is unclear. His hope to be a new George Brown with a department of economic affairs to rival Gordon Brown's Treasury, has been stamped upon.

He sat in the back of his bus and dreamt about life after May 1. "Then I hope I will have played my part in the key strategy area which have been two years developing and brought to fruition. Then there will be a Labour government and Tony Blair will be Prime Minister and him and I will have a chat."

Although some like to compare Prescott to Ernest



TV WATCH
NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

Bevin Attlee's dynamic working class Foreign Secretary, he is more like George Brown. Wilson's era deputy. In Manning Saatchi's recent Tory home TV broadcast which predicted the headlines under a wayward Labour government, Prescott was painted as a loose cannon — always threatening resignation and stomping off in protest at slights real and imagined.

It is unlikely we will be seeing much of John Prescott in the next six weeks, he has been marginalised. Overloaded with unglamorous campaigning in unlikely places. Prescott's gaffes, if there are any, will not be caught on camera.

But you can't silence Prescott for ever. If Labour wins the man in the iron mask will deserve more than a big office and a big ministerial car, he will need a big job to go with them. Just what job will be the first big test of Tony Blair's first day in Downing Street. And whatever it is, there will be no keeping him off our screens.



John Swinney, SNP Treasury spokesman, outlining a "budget for Scotland" yesterday

SNP promises lower taxes

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE Scottish National Party yesterday promised tax cuts for low earners and promised to restore student grants and state benefits for 16 and 17-year-olds when it published its budget for an independent Scotland.

The 30-page document gave details of Scotland's spending over four years of independence, with annual expenditure reaching £2 billion in the fourth year. The low rate tax

would be cut from 20p to 15p, but higher earners would be hit by the abolition of the ceiling on national insurance contributions.

To compensate middle earners, the level of income taxed at basic rate would be expanded by 15 per cent. The SNP would also cut VAT on fuel to 5 per cent and raise tobacco duty by 15 per cent and reduce spirit duties by 10 per cent. Pensions would rise by five per cent.

John Swinney, the party's

Chalker to quit world aid post

By POLLY NEWTON

BARONESS CHALKER will retire as Minister for Overseas Development after the election, it was announced yesterday. Lady Chalker, who as Lynda Chalker was MP for Wallasey for 18 years until she lost the seat to Labour in 1992, will leave the Conservative front bench in the House of Lords whatever the result of the election.

She said in her resignation letter to the Prime Minister: "As you know, I am deeply committed to continuing development work in Africa and now feel that I should do this independently."

John Major replied that she had brought to her job "a particularly effective combination of dedication, hard-headed analysis and genuine compassion. You have become not only a figure of world stature but also a close friend and trusted adviser of many international leaders."

TOP BRAND VIDEOS - FROM UNDER £130

MATSUI VXA1100
LONG PLAY VIDEO WITH EXCLUSIVE REMOTE CONTROL
Was £149.99. In-store Price £139.99.
£129.99
SAVE £20.00
EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT VOUCHER

MATSUI VPA93010P
EXTENDED PLAY VIDEO WITH VIDEOPLUS
• Long play/record facility
• Remote control.
Was £149.99.
HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST!
£144.99
SAVE £20.00
EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT VOUCHER

GRUNDIG GV41
4-HEAD NICAM STEREO VIDEO WITH VIDEOPLUS
• VideoPlus with PDC for easy programming
• Long play/record facility
• Auto set-up
• Instant review function.
Was £249.99.
£179.99
SAVE £30.00
EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT VOUCHER

HITACHI VTF545
4-HEAD NICAM STEREO VIDEO WITH VIDEOPLUS
• VideoPlus with PDC for easy programming
• Long play/record facility
• Auto set-up
• Instant review function.
Was £249.99.
£259.99
SAVE £20.00
EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT VOUCHER

JVC HRA630
4-HEAD NICAM STEREO VIDEO
• Auto set-up
• VideoPlus with PDC
• Instant review function.
Was £249.99.
£329.99
SAVE £20.00
EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT VOUCHER

TOSHIBA VS25
4-HEAD NICAM STEREO VIDEO
• VideoPlus with PDC
• Instant review function.
Was £249.99.
£329.99
SAVE £20.00
EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT VOUCHER

Panasonic NVHD605
4-HEAD NICAM STEREO VIDEO
• VideoPlus with PDC
• Long play/record facility
• Superdrive multi-intelligent control
• Panasonic TV compatible remote control.
Was £249.99.
£349.99
SAVE £20.00
EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT VOUCHER

TOSHIBA VS56
4-HEAD NICAM STEREO VIDEO WITH VIDEOPLUS
• VideoPlus with PDC
• Long play/record facility
• Satellite control function.
Was £249.99.
£449.99
SAVE £20.00
EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT VOUCHER

Dixons
There's a great deal going on

Nato expansion at uneasy heart of US-Russia talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN HELSINKI

PRESIDENT CLINTON and President Yeltsin met for talks last night in Helsinki, in what both sides predicted would be the toughest Russian-American encounter since the end of the Cold War.

With relations under heavy strain because of Moscow's objections to Nato's enlargement plans, the two leaders met at a dinner in the Finnish presidential palace for the ceremonial part of their two-day meeting.

Ahead of the main working session, which will take place today at the Finnish President's seaside residence, both sides kept up the pre-negotiating rhetoric, with the Russians sounding an optimistic note, while the Americans tried to play down any expectations of a breakthrough.

President Clinton and I face difficult and serious talks," Mr Yeltsin said soon after arriving in Helsinki. "I think that Bill Clinton and his team are looking for a compromise to all controversial questions, so that we can depart once again as friends."

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, sounded a different note, saying that the two men may use their meetings simply to "renew a good working relationship". She added: "I do not think that there are specific things that one should look for as benchmarks.



Clinton: arrival in invalid style after knee injury

BY MICHAEL BINYON

THE American President arrived in Helsinki yesterday in a Finnair catering capsule. Never has a summit begun so humiliatingly, never has protocol been so confused.

As Air Force One taxied to a halt in the crisp winter sun, a catering hoist edged forward to the plane's forward service entrance. President Ahtisaari and Finnish dignitaries shuffled and appeared perplexed: had the American President ordered a fresh round of duty-free drinks?

Suddenly, it was all clear. The red carpet was hastily relaid to line up with the Finnair truck. Officials readied themselves for the salute. Slowly the hoist went up, and slowly it came down again. No one emerged. It was, it appeared, a dummy run by the Secret Service to see that the contraption was working. Up and down it went again. The back flap opened, and a man holding crutches peered

out suspiciously. Then Mr Clinton appeared. Smiling sheepishly as his wheelchair was pushed into view, he shook hands with the President and was manoeuvred into his limousine.

There were no speeches, no anthems, no inspections of the guard. There was not even a jaunty touch of Roosevelt. Mr Clinton had been doing some exercises with his physiotherapist on the flight over, but he was clearly not looking forward to the world's cartoonists having a field day.

President Yeltsin arrived a couple of hours later, and almost bounded down the steps, a picture of breezy health. Clearly relishing the contrast, he stood, smiling and bronzed (there must be sun-lamps in the Kremlin clinic) beside his wife, Naina, while the Russian national anthem echoed across the tarmac. He did not attempt to sing: there are no words to the latest national hymn as the Russian parliament is still

locked in argument over what they should be.

He made an elaborate speech, thanking Mr Ahtisaari, thanking Finland, extolling good-neighbourly relations, damping down expectations of summit agreement and rounding off with hopes for world peace. It was almost as long as a Gorbachev statement, and certainly his longest public appearance for a year.

Both men then set off to check in. Mr Clinton has been moved out of the American Ambassador's residence as it has no lift, and is having to bunk down in the Intercontinental Hotel along with the entire travelling White House.

Mr Ahtisaari, an earthy, roly-poly man who appeals as much to Mr Yeltsin's bluntness as he does to Mr Clinton's Southern Good Old Boy charm, has lent his guests his house for the whole summit, and he and his wife have moved out.



President Yeltsin greets onlookers as he is welcomed in Helsinki for the summit

countries. There is also scope for fresh cuts in strategic arms.

Mr Clinton, who has praised the new Russian Cabinet, which is dominated by young reformers, is also expected to offer Moscow economic incentives in the form of loan guarantees to help to stimulate the Russian economy and a permanent seat at the G7 group of leading industrialised countries.

While this package of in-

ductions may sweeten the Nato pill, the Americans are aware that ultimately there is little they can do to placate Mr Yeltsin, who will never accept the alliance's expansion plans. However good the relationship between the two men, they must agree to disagree.

Tomorrow Mr Yeltsin must return back to Moscow to face what will almost certainly be a hostile reception from opposition Communists and nationalist leaders, who had written

off the summit even before it started. Viktor Ilyukhin, Communist head of the Russian parliamentary security committee, said yesterday that there was no point in talking to America and that Moscow's only alternative was to take "counter-measures".

He said: "Nothing constructive will come of this summit precisely because Nato's expansion is a foregone conclusion and Russia is powerless there."

for defence and more than it could keep under control during political turbulence.

So far, only the main provisions of the first Start agreement have been largely enacted. Three former Soviet republics — Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine — are now nuclear-free. America has spent almost \$2 billion in helping Russia to scrap nuclear warheads, and joint programmes are going ahead to prevent the theft of weapons and fissile material in Russia.

Start 2, which makes further deep cuts in nuclear arsenals to about 3,000-3,500 on each side, has not come into force, however, having run into strong opposition in the Russian parliament, which believes it strongly disadvantages Russia and is refusing to ratify it.

Until Start 2 is ratified, prospects for a follow-on treaty look dim. The Americans envisage Continuous Arms Reduction Talks (Car) which would include strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons. Washington believes that China, Britain and France should be included in a second phase of Car.

But experts, including Ashworth Carter, a former Assistant Defence Secretary in the Clinton Administration, say scrapping all nuclear weapons is neither practical nor desirable until it is clear that other countries will do so, too. Few expect much progress here on beginning a new arms treaty.

Drastic cuts in nuclear arms back on agenda

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HELSINKI

PRESIDENT Clinton will today urge President Yeltsin to make huge new cuts in Russia's nuclear arsenal, scrapping thousands of warheads so that America and Russia eventually have only about 2,000 nuclear weapons each.

Arms control, a central feature of East-West summits during the Cold War, is back on the agenda in Helsinki. President Clinton said before arriving here that he would discuss guidelines for a Start (strategic arms reduction treaty) 3 agreement with Moscow to continue the reductions agreed in earlier Start accords. They envisage cutting nuclear stockpiles by two thirds from the total at the Cold War's height.

America's proposals are based on a Nuclear Posture Review by the Pentagon three years ago, which concluded that nuclear weapons played a smaller part in American security than at any time in the nuclear age and that the country should concentrate on anti-missile defences to counter nuclear proliferation by rogue states. It recognised that another stage of negotiations on arms control with Moscow would need to follow Start 2, and recommended reductions in non-strategic forces not covered by the treaty.

At present Russia still has between 10,000 and 15,000 nuclear weapons, almost ten times as many as America. The Pentagon review said this was more than Russia needed

The bouncy East meets wheelchair-bound West

BY MICHAEL BINYON

THE American President arrived in Helsinki yesterday in a Finnair catering capsule. Never has a summit begun so humiliatingly, never has protocol been so confused.

As Air Force One taxied to a halt in the crisp winter sun, a catering hoist edged forward to the plane's forward service entrance. President Ahtisaari and Finnish dignitaries shuffled and appeared perplexed: had the American President ordered a fresh round of duty-free drinks?

Suddenly, it was all clear. The red carpet was hastily relaid to line up with the Finnair truck. Officials readied themselves for the salute. Slowly the hoist went up, and slowly it came down again. No one emerged. It was, it appeared, a dummy run by the Secret Service to see that the contraption was working. Up and down it went again. The back flap opened, and a man holding crutches peered

out suspiciously. Then Mr Clinton appeared. Smiling sheepishly as his wheelchair was pushed into view, he shook hands with the President and was manoeuvred into his limousine.

There were no speeches, no anthems, no inspections of the guard. There was not even a jaunty touch of Roosevelt. Mr Clinton had been doing some exercises with his physiotherapist on the flight over, but he was clearly not looking forward to the world's cartoonists having a field day.

President Yeltsin arrived a couple of hours later, and almost bounded down the steps, a picture of breezy health. Clearly relishing the contrast, he stood, smiling and bronzed (there must be sun-lamps in the Kremlin clinic) beside his wife, Naina, while the Russian national anthem echoed across the tarmac. He did not attempt to sing: there are no words to the latest national hymn as the Russian parliament is still

OFFER 1

FREE
PERSONAL
HANDS-FREE KIT
(WORTH £49.99) WITH
THE NEW NOKIA 1611
DIGITAL PHONE

NOW ONLY
£9.99

If you use your mobile phone whilst driving you could be breaking the law, but with this special offer you can talk and drive in complete safety.



OFFER 2

VODAFONE • DIGITAL
PACKAGE - JUST £199.99
INC VAT

12 months line rental, 180 minutes inclusive calls, Connection, Choice of phones (including NEC, Nokia, Motorola and Alcatel).

SEE WHAT YOU CAN SAVE!

CHARGES INCURRED	VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD 15	PEOPLES PHONE DIGITAL PACKAGE
12 MONTHS LINE RENTAL	£210.00	INCLUDED
CONNECTION	£35.00	INCLUDED
GSM MOBILE PHONE	£9.99	INCLUDED
TOTAL	£254.99	£199.99
	TOTAL SAVING £55.00	

181 STORES NATIONWIDE

CALL US NOW FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE, TO PLACE
AN ORDER OR FOR A FREE INFORMATION PACK

0800 • 10 • 11 • 12



Expand your horizons with Round Table

Would you like to change your prospective
outlook and make new friends at the same time?
Do you want to travel, save money for good
causes, try new social adventure activities?
Want to help to get your action and your family
involved in the local community? If you're
under 40, why not take the plunge and throw
yourself into the Round Table Club today?

Freefone UK 0800 745 746
Email: info@roundtable.org.uk
or visit our web site: <http://www.roundtable.org.uk>





We test our brakes in the Arctic. Our vehicles pull

OUR BADGE IS

2 tons for 30,000 miles up steep hills. They also

TESTED BETWEEN

reverse up 1 in 2 inclines over and over. It gets

-40°C AND 75°C.

worse. Land Rovers are tested for hours in 20 inches

THE REST OF THE

of water. We even drive off an 18 inch platform and

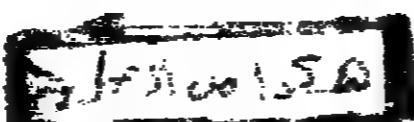
CAR DOESN'T

over railway sleepers to test the air bags. After all

ESCAPE SO LIGHTLY.

this, our cars deserve something special. A badge.

DIAL 100 AND ASK THE OPERATOR FOR FREEPHONE LAND ROVER.



Legal & Ge

'mis-sellin

Staff on



Colin Chilcott and Paul White

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS

Anatole Kaletsky
says Tory tactics
are not working
PAGE 29



EDUCATION

David Blunkett
outlines Labour's
proposals
PAGE 38

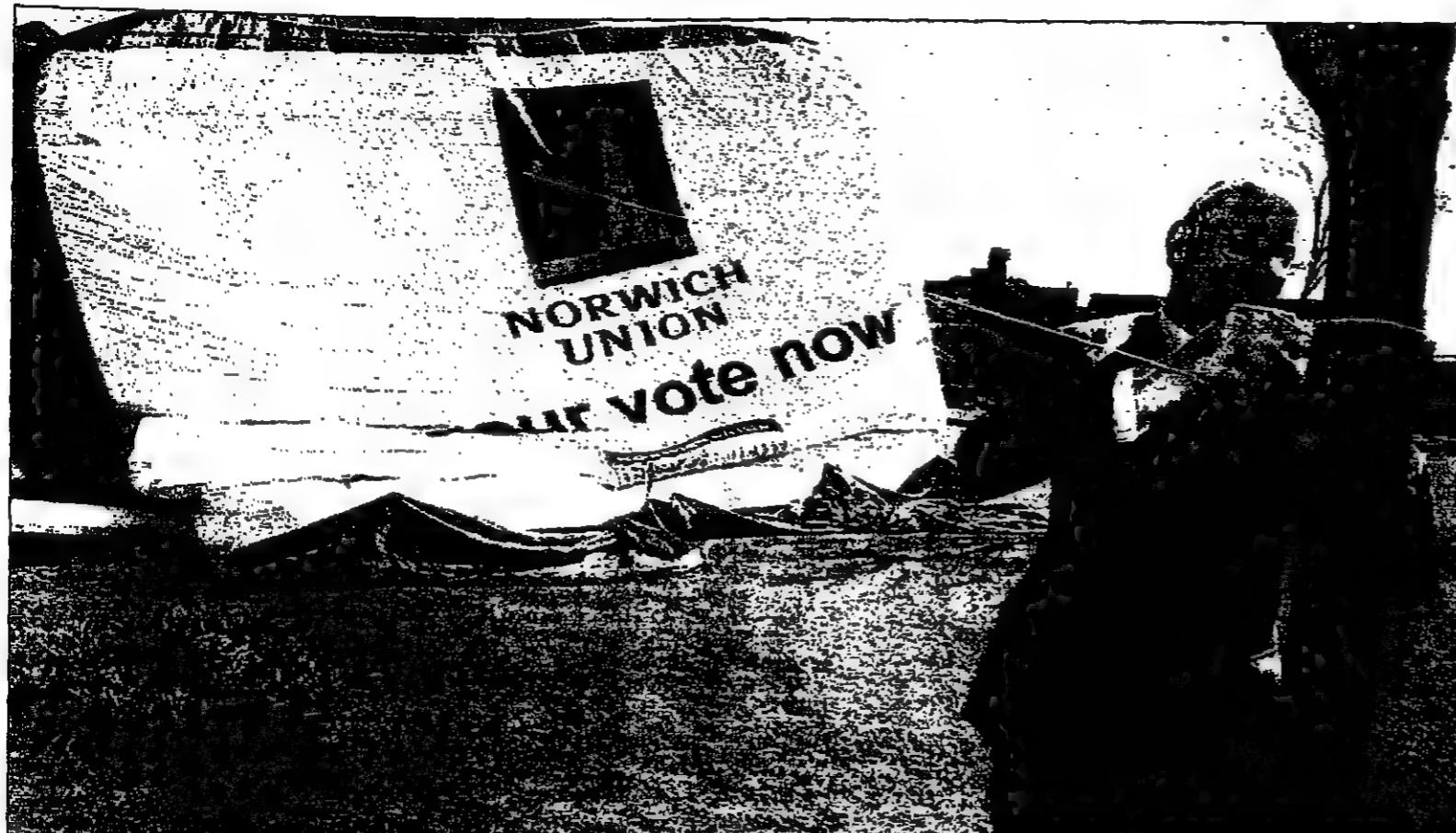


SPORT

Hoddle makes few
waves in naming
squad for Mexico
PAGES 41-48

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
46, 47

FRIDAY MARCH 21 1997



Inflation beater: George Paul, the Norwich Union chairman, tethers an errant inflatable sign as the insurer announced its flotation yesterday

Norwich members to get £3bn flotation windfall

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

ALMOST three million members of Norwich Union will share a £3 billion windfall as a result of the insurer's £5 billion stock market flotation, it was announced yesterday.

Norwich Union is to issue 1.3 billion free shares to 2.9 million members. The average payout will be worth about £800. The shares will be split between the society's 1.8 million with-profit pensioners and savings policyholders as well as its 1.1 million non-profit holders of products such as annuities and term assurance mortgages.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which is advising Norwich Union, estimates the shares will be worth between 22p and 26p. The offer excludes NU's 4.1 million non-life insurance customers worldwide.

NU is also seeking to raise £1.75 billion in a rights issue to fund a restructuring. Of this, £1.5 billion will go to the with-profit fund, which will become part of a new company called

CITY ADVISERS IN LINE FOR £145M BONANZA

THE cost of Norwich Union's flotation and rights issue will be £145 million, including a £25 million fee charge, equivalent to £26 for each qualifying member (Gavin Lumden writes).

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which is co-ordinating the bookbuilding behind the rights issue, will get £40 million. The rest will be shared between other advisers, such as actuary Tillinghast-Towers Perrin, and the cost of communicating with its members worldwide. Norwich Union is making 120 separate

mailings. Unlike the converting building societies, it has been able to send a mini-circular to the 2.9 million members who qualify for shares, reserving 18,000 copies of the full document for institutional investors.

Advisers have been huge beneficiaries of the rush to the stock market by building societies and other mutuals. The Halifax paid £413 million in connection with the acquisition of the Leeds Building Society and the conversion to a bank.

Norwich Union Life and Pensions. The money will replace the general non-life business which is being set up as a separate subsidiary, Norwich Union Insurance.

Today, 2.2 million UK members should receive a circular detailing their individual share allocation as well as a voting form. An extraordinary meeting is to be held at London Arena on April 18.

A 75 per cent vote in favour for the demutualisation is required for to proceed. This is

likely as even non-profit holders will receive a fixed allocation of 150 shares. With-profit policyholders will get a fixed allocation of 300 shares, worth up to £800. In addition, 57 per cent of them will receive a variable allocation dependent on the value of their policy. This could double the amount of shares given to a third of with-profit holders. Some 126,000 with-profit holders stand to get more than 1,200 shares. The 10,000 staff will also get 150 shares. According

to a recent Inland Revenue ruling, NU members will have 42 days in which to transfer an unlimited number of shares into the tax-free shelter of a PEP. NU said people already drawing on policies, such as annuities, would also get 150 shares.

Qualifying members will also be able to buy further shares in the rights issue at a discount to the price set for the City. On the basis of privatisation terms, this could be about 5 per cent to 10 per cent. Details will

be sent in a mini-prospectus in May. NU will pay its first dividend in June 1998. It said a notional net dividend for 1996 would have been worth £205 million.

Proposing the demutualisation, Allan Bridgewater, chief executive, said it would bring out the true value of NU's subsidiaries, increase its free asset ratio from 10.7 per cent to 15.4 per cent and improve its access to external capital. Significantly, he refused to comment on whether the company had received offers to merge since it announced the plan to demutualise last October.

Richard Harvey, group finance director, said the restructuring would enable the with-profits fund to invest an additional £1.2 billion in equities. NU had already begun a series of derivatives trades to do this. Restating corporate accounts, he said NU had achieved £483 million of pre-tax profits last year.

Pennington, page 27

Legal & General offers 'mis-selling' solution

BY MARTIN WALLER

LEGAL & GENERAL, one of the country's biggest insurers, claims it has come up with a way of helping the half a million people who were wrongly tempted out of occupational pensions and into personal pension plans.

The L&G was heavily implicated in the long-running, and still largely unresolved, pension mis-selling scandal. L&G has so far offered redress to only about 10 per cent of the 20,000 or more mis-selling cases it has identified.

David Prosser, chief executive, says the slow rate of progress requires the industry to take the initiative. He proposes issuing a legally binding guarantee to restore any loss of benefits

to pension plan holders wrongly advised by L&G representatives to opt out of their company scheme. "What matters to the individual is that they know, as a matter of certainty, that when they retire, they will have the pension benefits to which they would have been entitled will be paid," said Mr Prosser.

L&G will earmark an unspecified proportion of the group's £20 billion life fund to back the guarantees. This sum will be subject to the usual checks by the Department of Trade and Industry on insurers. The scheme needs the agreement of the Personal Investment Authority, the consumer finance regulator. Yesterday it was sceptical.

Pennington, page 27

ABN Amro in talks to buy Capel-Cure Myers

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

ABN AMRO Hoare Govett, the broking arm of the Dutch bank, has confirmed that it is in discussions over the purchase of Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management, the leading private client portfolio manager.

John Henderson, chief executive of Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management, said the firm had made the announcement in a bid to end market speculation about the future of the company. "There have been many rumours about a change of ownership," he said.

Capel-Cure Myers manages about £4 billion on behalf of private clients and pension funds. The company is

thought to have made £7 million in 1996. Capel-Cure Myers is currently 70 per cent owned by CIGI, a company formed from the collapse of a Canadian property and financial services group. At the end of last year, CIGI indicated that it wanted to sell its stake. Mr Henderson said: "We had preliminary discussions with a number of different parties." The company currently employs 450 staff. He added that a purchase by ABN Amro would represent the best fit for the company.

ABN Amro has been interested in increasing its asset management arm in this country for a long time. It was this ambition that led it to offer a job to Nicola Horlick, the former senior Morgan Grenfell fund manager.

Staff on National Express gravy train

BY FRASER NELSON

NATIONAL EXPRESS, the transport group, is to give away about £30 million in shares as a loyalty bonus to the staff of its West Midlands bus company.

More than 4,000 workers of West Midland Travel, which became part of National Express two years ago, will receive an average payout worth £7,800 as a reward for holding on to their shares for two years.

The staff, who were the owners of West Midlands Travel before it was taken over in a £200 million deal, will receive the windfall after the company's annual meeting on May 1. Six

million shares are being issued, which were set aside as part of the original deal.

The company, which last month became Britain's biggest train operator after winning the franchise for ScotRail, made an operating profit of £2.1 million from Gatwick Express and Midland Main Line in their first eight months. The two lines were expected only to break even. Phil White, chief executive, said the company, which formally takes over ScotRail next month, was confident that it could resolve the dispute that has left the country's rail system paralysed by one-day strikes.

The staff, who were the owners of West Midlands Travel before it was taken over in a £200 million deal, will receive the windfall after the company's annual meeting on May 1. Six

million shares are being issued, which were set aside as part of the original deal.

The company, which last month became Britain's biggest train operator after winning the franchise for ScotRail, made an operating profit of £2.1 million from Gatwick Express and Midland Main Line in their first eight months. The two lines were expected only to break even. Phil White, chief executive, said the company, which formally takes over ScotRail next month, was confident that it could resolve the dispute that has left the country's rail system paralysed by one-day strikes.

National Express' investment in its

bus fleet helped the division to lift profits by 60 per cent, to £39.4 million. After a restructuring charge of £3.83 million, group pre-tax profits were 45 per cent ahead at £60.1 million. Earnings were 32.8p (27.9p) and a final dividend of 8.1p, due on May 2, lifts the total to 11.5p (10p).

Colin Child, the finance director, said that after cutting borrowings from £37.8 million to £51 million, the company was on the prowl for acquisitions. It is unlikely to buy any UK bus companies, he said, but would be interested in bidding for a part of London's Underground system.

Tempus, page 28

Shares tumble as Greenspan overshadows inflation fall

BY JANET BUSH AND RICHARD THOMSON

LONDON shares plunged to their biggest daily loss since December, spooked once again by a warning of higher American interest rates from Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve.

Despite yesterday's fall in inflation, the City was still worried by Wednesday's news of another sharp fall in unemployment, higher average earnings growth and a healthy bounce in retail sales. These hints of economic

uncertainties of an election campaign, but also a growing perception that British interest rates will rise once the poll is over.

The FTSE 100 index closed 74.1 points lower at 4,258.1.

The index now stands 186 points down from its all-time closing high on March 11, with all but 20 points of that slump occurring this week after John Major confirmed that the election will be on May 1.

The selling came despite

news that British retail price inflation fell in February.

Headline inflation edged lower to 2.4 per cent in January, while underlying inflation fell from 3.1 per cent to 2.9 per cent.

In December the FTSE 100

was sent 88 points lower in a day after Mr Greenspan warned stock market investors against "irrational exuberance". This time he told the Joint Economic Committee of Congress that the American economy retained "a great deal of vigour" and that the job market remained strong.

In remarks widely interpreted as a strong hint that the US central bank will raise interest rates, he emphasised the need for the Fed to act preemptively to prevent inflation rising out of control.

On Wall Street the Dow Jones industrial average immediately fell 50 points before recouping some of its losses to stand around 35 points lower at midday. The mood in London was, if anything, somewhat darker than on Wall Street.

The market is not only

contending with the inevitable

strength were compounded

yesterday by news of a sharp jump in broad money supply.

The fall in headline inflation was largely because of food prices, although the index was also depressed by household goods and personal goods prices. Housing and motorising costs, plus clothing prices, pushed inflation higher.

Meanwhile, manufacturers

said exports were now at their lowest level since 1993 because of the strength of sterling. The Confederation of British Industry said an improvement in domestic orders had compensated for the decline in exports. Page 26

In remarks widely interpreted as a strong hint that the US central bank will raise interest rates, he emphasised the need for the Fed to act preemptively to prevent inflation rising out of control.

On Wall Street the Dow Jones industrial average immediately fell 50 points before recouping some of its losses to stand around 35 points lower at midday. The mood in London was, if anything, somewhat darker than on Wall Street.

The market is not only

contending with the inevitable

strength were compounded

yesterday by news of a sharp jump in broad money supply.

The fall in headline inflation was largely because of food prices, although the index was also depressed by household goods and personal goods prices. Housing and motorising costs, plus clothing prices, pushed inflation higher.

Meanwhile, manufacturers

said exports were now at their lowest level since 1993 because of the strength of sterling. The Confederation of British Industry said an improvement in domestic orders had compensated for the decline in exports. Page 26

In remarks widely interpreted as a strong hint that the US central bank will raise interest rates, he emphasised the need for the Fed to act preemptively to prevent inflation rising out of control.

On Wall Street the Dow Jones industrial average immediately fell 50 points before recouping some of its losses to stand around 35 points lower at midday. The mood in London was, if anything, somewhat darker than on Wall Street.

The market is not only

contending with the inevitable

strength were compounded

yesterday by news of a sharp jump in broad money supply.

The fall in headline inflation was largely because of food prices, although the index was also depressed by household goods and personal goods prices. Housing and motorising costs, plus clothing prices, pushed inflation higher.

Meanwhile, manufacturers

said exports were now at their lowest level since 1993 because of the strength of sterling. The Confederation of British Industry said an improvement in domestic orders had compensated for the decline in exports. Page 26

BUSINESS
TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	1996	1997
FTSE 100	4,258.1	(74.1)
Yield	3.7%	3.7%
FTSE All share	2,079.05	(35.55)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	3,002.04	(42.34)
S&P Composite	701.85	(3.32)
US STATE		
Federal Funds	8.00%	(5.50%)
Long Bond	10.50%	(5.50%)
Yield	7.00%	(5.50%)
UK LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	6.0%	(6.0%)
Life long gilt future (Jun)	108.5%	(108%)
STERLING		
New York:	1.5842	(1.5822)
London	1.5842	(1.5822)
DM	2.2825	(2.2825)
FF	9.0710	(9.0581)
SP	2.3051	(2.3022)
Yen	196.78	(196.09)
Euro	98.5	(98.3)
US		

Home loans point to patchy recovery

By ROBERT MILLER AND JANET BUSH

THE patchy nature of the housing market recovery was underlined yesterday by the latest mortgage lending figures from banks and building societies.

But, outside the housing sector, demand for credit in the economy appeared to remain strong and the M4 broad measure of money supply leapt, underscoring a growing view in the City that interest rates will have to be raised after the election.

The Building Societies Association (BSA) said that net and gross mortgage lending fell slightly in February, although approvals rose to £2.9 billion from £2.5 billion in January. Members of the association recorded a £335 million monthly fall in net advances from £1 billion in January.

Provisions take toll of Renault

RENAULT, the French automaker, suffered a net loss of Fr5.25 billion in 1996, the company said.

Losses were struck after costs and provisions of Fr3.91 billion, particularly for closing the group's plant near Brussels, and for the social plan the company will implement in France in connection with its restructuring plans.

As a result of the provisions, the group incurred an operating loss of Fr5.99 billion, compared with a profit of Fr1.26 billion in 1995. Excluding restructuring charges, the operating loss would be Fr1.77 billion.

Automotive activities lost Fr2.45 billion, excluding provisions. The commercial vehicle arm had an operating loss of Fr705 million.



Tom Farmer, the chairman, said yesterday that the record had been achieved despite flat market conditions

Sterling 'has delivered untimely exports blow'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S manufacturing exports are now at their lowest level since 1993 because of the strength of sterling.

The latest evidence of the UK's weakening export performance will be a blow to the Government ahead of the general election in the midst of a run of good figures on inflation and unemployment.

In its latest monthly trends survey, the Confederation of British Industry today says that sterling's continued strength has led to export demand for UK manufactured goods reaching its lowest level since November 1993.

The survey of more than 1,000 firms in 50 industries, accounting for half the UK's manufacturing exports, shows that 35 per cent of companies consider their export books below normal. Only 17 per cent monitoring range.

Although M4 has been distorted by the introduction of the gilt repo market, economists still said that its rapid growth was a worry.

They say their export books are above normal.

This net balance of 18 per cent of companies citing below normal export levels marks a rapidly accelerating trend — down from a net balance of 12 per cent recording below normal exports in February, and 8 per cent in January.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate director of economic analysis, says the findings "show that the strength of sterling is beginning to take its toll on export orders".

Manufacturers hope that falling export orders can be offset by domestic sales, and the CBI's survey gives some support to that, showing that home demand is stronger than export performance. Total orders are now broadly stable after an improvement in demand. With a fifth of firms

saying that total orders are above normal and 21 per cent suggesting they are below usual levels, the net negative balance of 1 per cent compares with a figure of minus 6 per cent for February and is the closest that overall order books have been to normal levels since September 1993.

Suggesting that this improvement in domestic demand has "more than compensated" for the fall in exports, the CBI says that with stocks at more than adequate levels, manufacturers have become more confident about raising output.

However, the survey sounds a warning note on inflation. A net 9 per cent of companies expect domestic prices to rise over the next four months, compared with only 4 per cent last month.

Kwik-Fit wheels in a record

By FRASER NELSON

REFURBISHMENT and construction of new sites helped Kwik-Fit, the car parts repair company, to return record profits last year. Its number of worldwide sites broke through 1,000.

The company opened 31 green field sites and added 83 centres to its national network over the year, which helped pre-tax profits grow 19 per cent to £43.3 million on sales up 17 per cent to £427 million.

Tom Farmer, chairman, said that the results had been achieved in spite of flat market conditions. The group continued to lift its market share in The Netherlands. The division had attracted a million motorists.

Earnings grew to 17.2p (14.7p) per share. The dividend rises to 5.6p (5p), with a final 3.5p due May 13.

Up to speed, page 33

Jury in the Gokal trial due to retire

By JON ASHWORTH

THE jury in the trial of Abbas Gokal, the former head of the Gulf Group, is today expected to retire to consider its verdict.

Mr Justice Buxton is due to complete his summing up this morning. The trial opened at the Old Bailey in September last year.

Mr Gokal, 61, denies one count of false accounting and a second of conspiracy to defraud. It is alleged that, between 1985 and 1991, he conspired with various officials of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) to falsify loan documents, board minutes, and other documents, with a view to enabling BCCI to secretly fund the Gulf Group.

The court heard that the Gulf Group was indebted to

BCCI to the tune of more than \$1.2 billion.

Mr Gokal is further alleged to have conspired with BCCI officials to create a financial structure designed to deceive Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditor. The structure was allegedly controlled by, but not traceable to, the Gulf Group, and was designed to channel funds to Gulf from BCCI.

The Gulf Group was based in Geneva and had extensive interests in shipping and trading. The jury was told that Mr Gokal had fled to Pakistan after the company collapsed in 1992, but was arrested in Frankfurt two years later, when the aircraft on which he was travelling to New York put down to refuel. He was last extradited to the UK.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lloyd's hearing opens at High Court

THE first in a series of hearings to deal with alleged fraud at Lloyd's of London opens at the High Court in London today. A number of names are refusing to pay funds owed under the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan, on the grounds that they were fraudulently induced to enter the market. They say their membership of Lloyd's should be rescinded in these circumstances, removing the obligation to pay. Lloyd's says the names have entered into third party contracts with policyholders and are hence bound to membership. If so, the court will address whether the names are obliged to pay their premiums to Equitas, the new reinsurance company, before pursuing any fraud claims.

Meanwhile, Sally Noel, the Lloyd's campaigner, has postponed plans to lead a march on Downing Street, demanding a government enquiry into Lloyd's. Mrs Noel is concerned that the march will attract "an unwanted, rebellious and fanatical element".

Jardine Matheson falls

JARDINE MATHESON, the Hong Kong trading conglomerate that owns a 50 per cent stake in Jardine Fleming, suffered a 29 per cent fall in net profits to US\$300.2 million after a \$56 million charge for non-recurring items. These included a \$26 million charge for regulatory breaches at Jardine Fleming Investment Management in London and Hong Kong. Dairy Farm International, the food retailing arm of the trading group, also incurred reorganisation costs at Kwik Save in the UK and Franklins in Australia.

Utilities under fire again

THE privatised utilities came in for a fresh barrage of criticism yesterday over excessive profits and "fat cat" pay from an all-party group of MPs. The Public Accounts Committee, which monitors public spending, demanded tougher action from the utility regulators to ensure that profits are curbed and that companies think twice before awarding top executives large pay packages. The attack follows criticism earlier this week in a Trade and Industry Select Committee report on energy regulation.

Securicor warning

SECURICOR, the security group dominated by its Cellnet investment, has given warning that stiff competition has accelerated the rate at which customers are "churning" mobile phones. Its shares fell 21p to 294p. Orange also suffered, falling 11p to 205p and Vodafone dropped 8p to 274p. Securicor has taken an £18 million charge to change its accounting policies, assuming that customers would return phones after two years, not three. Its communications division is now expected to return a loss of £9 million in the first half.

Hanson expands in US

HANSON, which became a building materials company after its demerger, has expanded its construction business in America with the acquisition of Concrete Pipes and Products, through its Cornerstone Construction & Materials unit for £7.8 million. Chris Collins, deputy chairman, said: "This is our new strategy in action." After the integration of Concrete Pipes, Cornerstone will be one of the largest concrete pipe producers in the US.

Merger for US banks

FIRST BANK SYSTEM is to acquire US Bancorp for \$8.5 billion in an all-shares deal that will form America's 14th largest bank. The deal between First Bank, based in Minneapolis, and US Bancorp, a regional bank based in Portland, Oregon, will result in the loss of about 4,000 jobs. The banks said First Bank said that it would take pre-tax charges of \$625 million for costs related to the merger, which was expected to close by the end of June.

Servisair soars 20%

SERVISAIR, the airport services company, achieved a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.1 million last year, reflecting continued growth in passenger air traffic and cargo volumes. Turnover increased 20 per cent to £153.9 million. Earnings were 19 per cent higher at 12.7p a share. A final dividend of 3.45p a share lifts the total 19 per cent to 5.1p. Tony McCann, the chairman, said he expected an "acceleration of our growth opportunities from airlines".

Boots Contract purchase

BOOTS Contract Manufacturing, part of The Boots Company, has paid £15.2 million to acquire a French toiletries manufacturer. Royal is the leading supplier of own-brand toiletries in France. It also has a growing business in Spain and Portugal. Its turnover last year was about £27 million. It employs more than 200 people in France and Spain. Boots already operates 820 Cosmetique in France. The new acquisition will create a combined French turnover of almost £40 million.

The Standard Life Assurance Company Annual General Meeting

The 171st Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held in Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 5RG on Tuesday 22 April 1997 at 2.30pm.

A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote. A proxy need not be a member.

By order of the Board of Directors
Alan R Forbes
Secretary
Edinburgh, 20 March 1997

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts, including the agenda, by writing to the Customer Service Information Team at PO Box 141, 1 Tanfield, Edinburgh EH3 5RG or by telephoning (0131) 245 2668. Proxy forms may be similarly obtained by members entitled to vote.



Pennington, page 27

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.13	1.97	2.00	2.04
Austria Sch	19.86	18.36	18.36	19.94
Belgium Fr	56.30	54.00	54.00	52.23
Canada \$	2.07	2.17	2.17	2.00
China CNY	5.70	5.75	5.75	5.70
Denmark Kr	10.81	10.01	10.01	10.00
Finland Mk	8.57	7.92	7.92	8.98
France Fr	9.45	8.90	8.90	8.98
Germany Dm	2.24	2.02	2.02	2.26
Greece Dr	4.42	4.19	4.19	4.26
Hong Kong \$	13.03	13.03	13.03	13.00
Iceland Kr	120	100	100	100
India Rs	1.07	0.98	0.98	1.02
Israel Shek	5.07	5.02	5.02	5.00
Italy Lira	2948	2948	2948	2948
Japan Yen	210.30	194.30	194.30	194.30

Bank rates are as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Other rates relate to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Guini cost c
pound

SEX

WOMEN ON MEN & MEN ON WOMEN



Part one, Women on Men, free
with April Marie Claire. Part two, Men on Women, free
with The Times on Saturday, 5 April

April marie claire on sale 21 March

In association with BURTON

CPAHS principles TOPMAN

Ocean
Proceeds to 1

Insurers must speed up mis-selling restitution Power deregulation should be delayed Election promises cost money

ing
gh Cou
hson fall
t fire again
arning
ands in U
US banks
ars 20%
act purchase
indard Life
ce Company
annual
al Meeting

STANDARD LIFE

□ THERE is a body of opinion that believes most of our big insurance companies should be put out of business by government or regulatory fiat. Legal & General, the mighty Prudential, Pearl Assurance, they should all be shut down, because their sins in the late 1980s make them no better than Barlow Clowes, the Titan pyramid selling schemes or those wretched ostrich farms.

This is not all hyperbole; the mis-selling of personal pensions that started in 1988 was both illegal and immoral — and it was being carried out by some of the finest names in financial services.

But in the real world you do not shut down the likes of the Pru — although you do go hunting with your elephant gun for the gnats of the industry, the small independent financial advisers will intervene before the necessary sums did much the same thing.

Now one of the big names has come up with its own solution. Legal & General is proposing a set-aside of a billion pounds or more by the industry to guarantee meeting its future obligations. These are to put those people it led astray back where they would have been if they had stayed with their occupational pensions all along.

At present the insurers are forced to adopt a case-by-case approach. They look at each individual example, go to the

L&G's dubious moral high ground

relevant occupational pension that the investor has opted out of, and then write a cheque to top up the existing pension to where it should have been. This is horribly slow, for reasons that are in dispute. Of 558,000 cases of potential mis-selling identified, fewer than 10,000 have been offered redress.

If that reserve fund is in place, argues Legal & General, then we need not hurry because those in any doubt know they will get their money in the end, and can sleep at night without worrying whether death or retirement will intervene before the necessary sums can be done.

There are two cynical responses to this plan, which is likely to be accepted with alacrity by other insurers if it gains regulatory blessing. One is that L&G is trying to claim the moral high ground while merely agreeing to meet its existing obligations. The other is that the group is trying to identify a tangible limit on the monetary damage it faces from mis-selling, to the benefit of its credit rating, share price, and so on.

Such cynicism is probably

justified, even if unsophisticated investors might draw some crumbs of comfort from yesterday's news. The money will indeed be there on retirement — except that it would have been all along.

The Personal Investment Authority, which in November tried to speed up the process of extracting the necessary data from occupational schemes, has set an unofficial target of 90 per cent clear-up rate for mis-selling by the end of this year. This is a hard one to hit, but the insurers should still try, and not be allowed to use their own pensions guarantees to drag their feet.

When the bugs come out to play

IN A performance as mealy-mouthed as it is weak-kneed, the Trade and Industry Select Committee looking at the deregulation of electricity in a year and ten days says it is, yes, just possible that a slight delay will be born by BG, successor to British Gas.

Its fixed at about 40 per cent of that bill. This means the

independents have 60 per cent to play for. Of your electric

ity bill, 30 per cent is distribution

PENNINGTON



and generation cost, or thereabouts, and only 10 per cent supply, which should therefore be inherently less profitable.

This begs the question whether we need a competitive market at all. But the real problem is the computers needed to track the supply of power to 20 million homes, a point accepted by the select committee. All 14 electricity distributors, including the two Scots, must have these running by the turn of the year to allow three months of testing.

Any competent computer technician would say that such a system needed at least a year to iron out the bugs, but this is impossible because the specifications are not yet agreed with the regulator. The danger is that on All Fools' Day next year the bugs come out to play. Months later, with a large number of electricity bills having gone out wrong, it is impossible to work out electronically who took what power from whom, and who has paid.

The only people forcing through this timetable are the politicians at the Department of Trade and Industry. According to the opinion polls, they will not

be here come June. This at least allows their successors the opportunity of a graceful extension of that April deadline.

Voting the Norwich way

TWO hundred years ago, when the Norwich Union was founded, general elections were much more fun for those privileged few who were entitled to vote. Election promises meant something, namely cash. Candidates knew votes were valuable and did the decent thing. Unless the opinion polls are radically wrong, it would scarcely be worthwhile for the parties to pay much for votes on May 1, even if they were legal.

Up in Norwich, however, they still know that votes are valuable. When members exercise theirs in four weeks' time, the board will have no compunction about buying them. Quite right too. Under the original proposals, it seemed that only the 1.8 million holders of with-profit life or pensions policies had a full interest in the fund and would

get the free shares that represented their stake in it. But conversion from mutual to plc requires a three-quarters majority, and holders of non-profit policies have voting rights too.

So 1.1 million of them are to be offered 150 shares each, worth an estimated £375, compared with a minimum of £150 for with-profit policyholders. What better illustration of the value of democracy and the need to protect your franchise, whether in the affairs of state, the European Union or the East Anglian version.

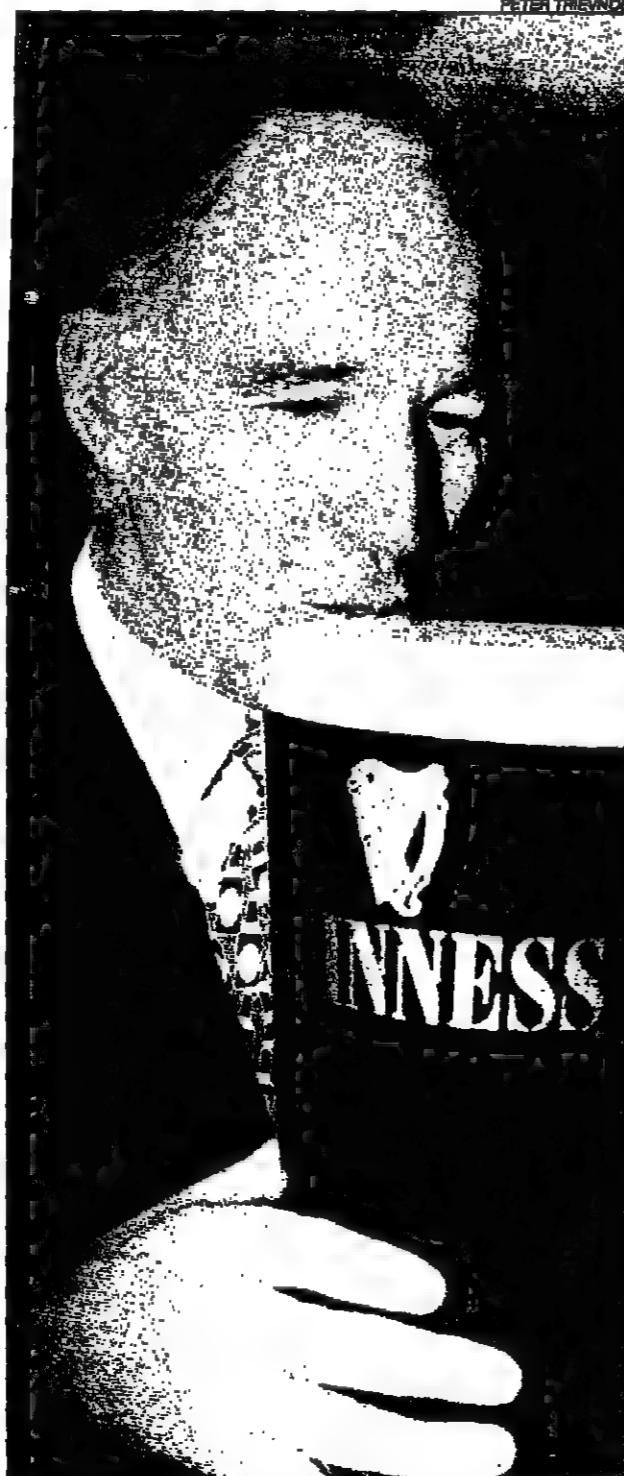
Unlike customers of building societies, with-profits policyholders could also win a continuing benefit from conversion. Some £1.5 billion new money will be used to buy non-life businesses from the life fund, making it more flexible, with a better chance to perform competitively.

Greenspan III

ALAN Greenspan's first gloomy warnings bludgeoned Wall Street. The next version, dubbed Greenspan II: the Sequel, left blase traders urging the Fed Chairman to put up or shut up. Put up interest rates that is. Yesterday's hint that he might do just that on Tuesday only shocked traders for a few hours. Greenspan's code words were: "The performance of the economy remains quite favourable."

Guinness puts cost of strong pound at £100m

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY



Tony Greener toasts a two-year high in the share price

GUINNESS gave warning yesterday that the soaring pound could knock about £100 million off its profits over the next two years.

The drinks company said that if the pound remained at current levels, profits this year would be depressed by £60 million, and by a further £40 million next year.

Tony Greener, chairman, said most of the currency hit related to profits translation and that underlying growth should accelerate this year. Western markets were improving for the first time since the recession, he added.

Guinness also hinted that it would shortly launch another buy-back, with market predictions suggesting that it will repurchase around £100 million of shares. The company has returned £645 million to shareholders through buy-backs in the past year. Guinness shares rose 15½p to a two-year high of 50½p.

The company recorded an 11 per cent rise in full year profits, excluding tax, to £975 million — slightly ahead of forecasts. Overall turnover rose 3 per cent to £4.73 billion, while the total dividend was up 8 per cent to 16.1p.

Operating profits in the spirits division were flat, at £678 million, although volumes rose 1 per cent. Sales of Johnnie Walker Red Label rose 4 per cent, while sales of single malts jumped 20 per cent. But overall sales of whisky fell 1 per cent. Guinness has raised spirits prices by an average of 1.5 per cent. It plans to raise prices 3.8 per cent next month in the UK.

Guinness doubled expenditure on new brands to £17 million. Marketing expenditure rose 10 per cent, to £332 million, and the company said it would maintain double-digit growth in marketing spend this year.

Guinness Brewing Worldwide increased profits 6 per cent, to £233 million. Sales of Guinness stout rose 5 per cent, with total beer volumes rising 4 per cent. There was also a strong performance from Kilkenny, which is now available in 5,000 outlets in the UK. Marketing investment rose 8 per cent to £205 million, while the Irish pub concept, which is supported by Guinness, grew

Proceeds to be reinvested after deal with US rival

Ocean sells OIL for £328m

BY CARL MORTISHED

OCEAN, the logistics and marine services group, is selling OIL, its offshore oil services business to Tidewater, an American competitor, for £328 million.

The sale is expected to generate a pre-tax profit of £228 million and Ocean Group will reinvest the proceeds in MSAS, its logistics business. John Allan, chief executive, said: "This sale will enable us to accelerate our progress towards our primary objective — to become a world leader in the fast-growing global logistics market."

Mr Allan said that Tidewater had approached Ocean with an offer for the

offshore business. He added that OIL was a capital-intensive business that would require heavy investment in due course, and that he believed Ocean was selling the business well into the growth cycle.

OIL has a fleet of 100 ships servicing offshore oil installations in the North Sea, West Africa, the Middle East and South America. The deal will reinforce Tidewater's position as the market leader in the business at a time of increased activity in offshore exploration. Tidewater is the biggest operator in the Gulf of Mexico but has little presence in the North Sea or West Africa. Last year, OIL made an operating profit of £21.1 million and had capital employed of £91.3 million.

Ocean had balance sheet gearing of only 6 per cent at the year end and the deal will give the company substantial cash resources for acquisitions. Mr Allan said he was seeking opportunities to extend Ocean's logistics business in the US, Europe and Southeast Asia.

The sale of OIL reinforces the shift in Ocean's business from asset-based to information technology-based services. In 1995, the company announced a £26 million restructuring of the group and last year managed to raise operating margins at MSAS to 3 per cent a year ahead of schedule.

Tempus, page 28

Whitbread sells Pizza Piazza chain for £11.25m

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

Whitbread yesterday sold the Pizza Piazza restaurant chain to a management buy-in team for £11.25 million.

Passion for Food, the company formed to complete the purchase, beat off tough competition for the chain from Queensborough Holdings, which recently recruited Michael Guthrie, the founder of BrightReasons, to launch a restaurant division.

Whitbread acquired the chain as part of its £46 million purchase of the BrightReasons restaurant chain at the end of last year. But the company made it clear that it would put the chain up for sale as it overlapped with its existing Pizza interests which include Pizza Hut.

Pizza Piazza has 20 upmarket pizza and pasta restaurants in the South of England. Jeremy Long, who was formerly managing director at Pavilion Services, will serve as chairman of the new company, while Ivan Taylor, who was managing director of BrightReasons, becomes chief executive. The buy-in is being backed by 3i and Banque Indosuez.

Whitbread shares closed down 14½p at 77½p, while shares in Queensborough fell 1½p to 32p.

APV blames market for fall

Tough market conditions were blamed for a sharp fall in profits at APV, the supplier of equipment and services to the food industry.

In the year to December 31, pre-tax profits were £15 million compared with £26.9 million a year earlier, on turnover, which fell to £772 million from £881.9 million.

Restructuring costs were £16 million compared with £10.5 million a year ago. Orders in the first two months of this year are 15 per cent lower than a year ago.

Earnings per share were 3.7p (7.2p) and the final dividend of 1.7p (1p) gives a maintained full-year dividend of 2.7p, which is payable on July 1. Tempus, page 28

Usborne ahead

Usborne, the agricultural services group headed by Lord Parkinson, has increased its first-half pre-tax profits to £416 million. Fertiliser blending performed ahead of targets, but the company is again not paying an interim dividend.

Wm Morrison moves South

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

W.M. MORRISON, the Yorkshire supermarket group, is to open its first branches in the South of England next year.

The group, which did not open any new stores in 1996, is planning five this year and five next year. It expects to create up to 2,250 new full- and part-time jobs in 1998.

The branches in the South will be at Brith in Kent and Banbury in Oxfordshire. The other three will be in Yorkshire.

The company, headed by

Kenneth Morrison, chairman and managing director, announced its expansion plans yesterday along with its results for the year ended February 2. It made a pre-tax profit of £35.8 million compared with £27.1 million a year ago.

Analysts said that while the profit figures were good, trading was disappointing. Like

for-life sales were up 1.5 per cent and growth slowed in the first few weeks of this year to just 0.4 per cent.

Earnings per share were 31.0p (30.67p) and the final dividend of 1.375p (1.25p), payable on May 16, gives a full-year dividend of 1.7p, up from 1.4p.



Morrison: new stores

Talks on Tesco's Irish bid resume

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TALKS between Tesco, the supermarket group, and Associated British Foods (ABF) about the purchase of the food manufacturer's Irish supermarkets were back on yesterday. Tesco said, after breaking down late on Wednesday over price.

Sources close to the company said that a deal, which would propel Tesco to market leadership in Ireland, could be ready today or early next week, but there is still a slim chance that no compromise over price will be reached.

Tesco is expected to pay between £600 million and £650 million for the 110 stores which make up the Stewarts and Crazy Prices chain in Northern Ireland and the Quinnsorth chain in the Irish Republic. The business generated around £1 billion of sales last year and

some £55 million of operating profits.

The deal would give Tesco a 26 per cent share of the market in the Republic of Ireland and a 30 per cent share in Northern Ireland.

Tesco is understood to have walked out of the talks on Wednesday evening because ABF, which is run by Garry Weston, was insisting on too high a price.

Tesco, the market leader in Britain, has one Metro store in Northern Ireland. Together with Sainsbury, it has run into difficulties obtaining planning permission for large stores there.

Safeway's name has been linked to a bid for the whole or part of Wellworths, the supermarket group owned by Fitzwilliam group, the investment vehicle of Tony O'Reilly, the Heinz chief.

Highlights from Standard Life's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 15 November 1996

The Group

- Group assets under management increased by some £6bn to just under £50bn. Total new premiums worldwide increased by almost 30% to £2.6bn.
- For companies such as Standard Life, which are financially strong and operationally efficient, mutuality is clearly in the best interests of current and future policyholders. The Company is, therefore, not presently considering demutualisation.

United Kingdom

- 1996 was an exceptional year for new business, with an increase in total new premiums of over 40%.
- Standard Life's reputation with Independent Financial Advisers as the premier life assurance company was reflected in the awards received from them during the year; these included 'FA Company of the Year'.
- The Company took possession of a new Head Office in Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

Canada

- Investment performance was again in the top quartile in independent surveys.
- The Company undertook a number of initiatives designed to meet the needs of its customers including the launch of a Customer Services Centre and the introduction of a Customer Satisfaction Guarantee.

Republic of Ireland

- Annual premium new business increased by nearly 20% and single premium business by almost 90%.
- Group pensions business also grew strongly as a result of outstanding investment performance.

The Annual Report and Accounts, including the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 22 April, will be available from Tuesday

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Greenspan sends London and New York tumbling

THE mere threat to raise US interest rates by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, was enough to throw financial markets on both sides of the Atlantic into a tail-spin.

He was again giving evidence to Congress and said that while he saw no sign of inflationary pressure, any delay in pre-empting it with interest rate rises would jeopardise economic growth.

His comments struck a note with those investors who expect the next rise in rates to signal the start of the long-awaited correction in financial markets.

Within minutes of his comments, the Dow Jones industrial average had plunged almost 80 points. It also left the FTSE-100 index nursing a fall of 74.1 at 4,258.1, having been 80.7 down at its worst.

London had opened lower and beat a steady retreat throughout the session. The expected drop in the inflation rate was not enough to counter the uncertain political outlook and the almost certain prospect of a rise in domestic rates after the general election.

But it seems that yesterday's sell-off had at last extended to the second liners with the FTSE mid-250 losing 87.7 at 4,565.2.

Investors appear to be adopting a defensive stance ahead of the general election, which may account for the revival of interest in the food retailers. The latest AGB survey showed Tesco, up 5p at 339p, gaining ground against J Sainsbury, its biggest rival. Up firmer at 329p. But Safeway is also gaining ground at the expense of Sainsbury and celebrated with a rise of 7p at 353p. Wm Morrison, which came in with profits matching market expectations, finished 21p firmer at 149p.

The City gave the thumbs-up to full-year figures from Guinness, 15p dearer at 501p.

Securicor fell 2p to 294p after shareholders were told at the annual meeting that write-offs totalling £18 million were to be made. But brokers say the setback for the shares should prove short-lived. Henderson Crosthwaite estimates the break-up value of the group to be worth at least 400p a share, including its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, which is reckoned to carry a price-tag of at least £1 billion.



Ian Menzies-Gow, right, and Mark Pullen of Geest, down 21p, who have raised profits 73 per cent after disposing of bananas

British Steel, up 1p at 159.4p, is expected to announce today plans to axe around 5,000 jobs over the next five years. The group is accelerating its restructuring programme, having already made known its desire to shed up to 1,000 jobs a year. The group has blamed the strong pound for the move, claiming it has only added to the

lower. Barclays fell 45p to £10.321, HSBC was 39p down to £14.75. Lloyds TSB dropped 22p to 476p. Royal Bank of Scotland was 21p off at 530p. Abbey National was 14p lower at 718p. National Westminster was 17p down at 686p. and Bank of Scotland 13p cheaper at 315p. Even Standard Chartered, Lehman's favourite

over per cent, while the shares fell 20p to 182p.

News of difficult trading conditions which are expected to affect first-half results "significantly" left Carisbrooke Shipping down 10p to 701p.

Vision Group tumbled 70p to 250p after warning that a "slippage" in implementation programmes would affect second-half results. Profits in the first six months of the video conferencing specialist saw the group return to the black. But there was strong support for Telspec, with the price rising 50p to 227p after reporting losses of £9 million. Shares of London Bridge Software made a solid debut on the big board after a placing by Henderson Crosthwaite at 200p. The price opened at 259p and touched a high for the day of 278p before closing at 261p, a premium of 61p.

KBC Advanced Technology got off to a brisk start in first-time trading after a placing at 195p. The price opened at 243p before closing at its best of the day with a rise of 52p at 277p.

Over on AIM, Total Office Group made a confident start with the shares opening at 152p compared with the placing price of 145p. After dipping to 150p, the price recovered to close at 152p, a premium of 7p.

The sale of its banana interest helped Geest, headed by Ian Menzies-Gow, chairman, and Mark Pullen, finance director, to boost profits last year by 73 per cent to £17.3 million. Action to stem losses in other parts of the business have also proved successful and now the group is expanding into other areas of the food market. The share ended down 21p at 252.1p.

The sale of its banana interest helped Geest, headed by Ian Menzies-Gow, chairman, and Mark Pullen, finance director, to boost profits last year by 73 per cent to £17.3 million. Action to stem losses in other parts of the business have also proved successful and now the group is expanding into other areas of the food market. The share ended down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4

problems of operating in the depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

down 21p at 252.1p.

Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 17.1p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 91p to 520.1p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Losing nothing in translation

NERVES are frayed at Norwich Union, awaiting approval for its £5 billion flotation from regulators abroad. Documents have been sent to about 120 countries, but the Afghan regulator has yet to reply. Allan Bridgewater, chief executive, will be nibbling his nails until he hears from the Portuguese authorities. Originally, a request was put in for documents to be translated into the local lingo and sent to the 70 resident policy-holders in question. Never mind the fact that they are all sun-loving expats.

Just the job

A DOUBLE celebration for Jeremy Tigue who is to take the reins at Foreign & Colonial, and walk up the aisle in the same year.

The 37-year-old Oxford graduate, who was yesterday hailed as the successor to Michael Hart, proposed in January. Enigmatically referred to as "Ruth", his wife works as a physiotherapist based in Cardiff. "I'm sick of the M4," sighs Tigue, who has persuaded his love to set up home in the capital after their wedding in Wales this October. "When people congratulate me, I have to ask them: what for, and some can get quite upset," he says.

Fool's gold

MORE from *Food For Thought*, the collection of eating habits from captains of industry, published in aid of Centrepoint. This time it's over to Peter Freeman, joint chief executive of Argent, the property company, who shares a favourite recipe for courgette soufflé. "Years ago — before the food and booze boom — my ambition was to have a restaurant," writes Freeman, who claims to feel almost at home in the kitchen as he does in the boardroom. "Sadly, I was sidetracked by the fool's gold of the property industry."



Freeman: sidetracked

Tapped for cash

WATER industry staff will be wearing blue today, but not as a sign of their political allegiance. To raise money for WaterAid, thousands of employees are being encouraged to pay £1 each to don blue outfits for the international water charity. The event is expected to raise about £15,000 for safe water and sanitation projects in developing countries.

Sporting agents

THE first Lloyd's members' agents merger this year, Kiln Cotesworth and Stewart, will this week become the third-largest members' agent by number of names. Adrian Graves, chief executive of the new Kiln Cotesworth Stewart, can now turn his attention to another marathon, the London Marathon. Graves is also a keen abolitionist, whose latest drop took him down the side of the Bowring Building. Meanwhile, David Whitehurst, managing director, prefers to flex his muscles on the less demanding golf course.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Why Tory comparisons on Europe are not working

Statistics have failed to stop British voters from looking in envy at the Continent

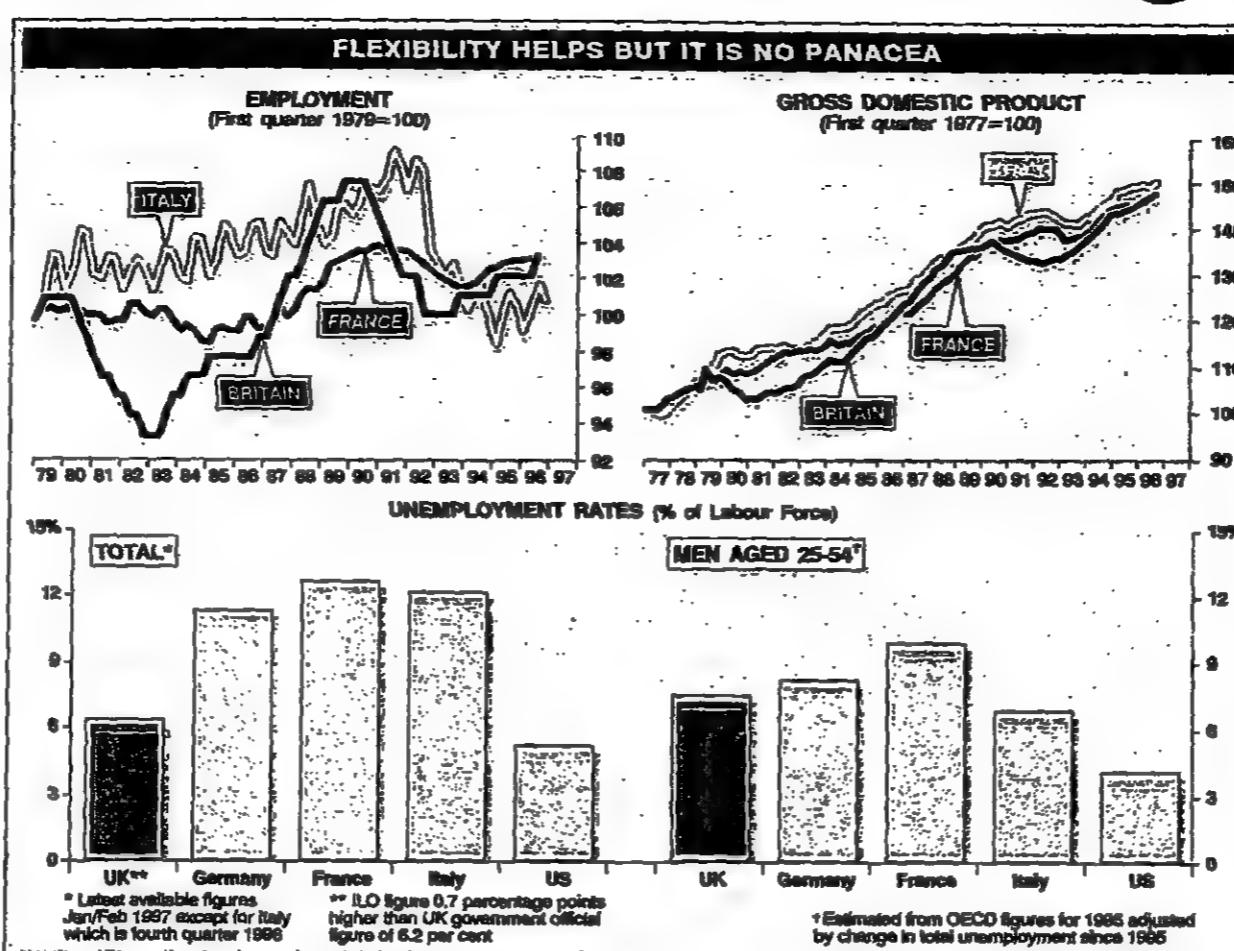
The phrase "Europe isn't working" has apparently been chosen as the theme of the Tories' main assault on Labour economic and foreign policies in the coming weeks. If so, the Government is making another big mistake — and not just for the obvious reason that putting the lime-light on Europe will push into semi-detachment the party's two most effective campaigners — Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke. Another objection is that the catchphrase about Europe will inevitably remind voters of the slogan "Labour isn't Working", emblazoned over posters of an endless dole queue, which helped Margaret Thatcher win in 1979. The trouble with that non-Subliminal association is that unemployment more than doubled within a year of the 1979 election and is still half a million higher than it was on the day when the Tories came to power.

It can, of course, be argued that many of the jobs lost in the last 18 years were artificial, subsidised and unproductive. It can also be added that the low unemployment typical of the pre-Thatcher period was incompatible with stable prices and peaceful industrial relations. Labour can claim that the unemployment rate never rose above 4.6 per cent before 1980 and has never since been below 5.5 per cent. But Labour must also admit that inflation accelerated throughout the 1960s and 1970s, rising to more than 20 per cent in 1974 and again in 1980. Even worse, the constant strikes and the Napoleonic pretensions of trade union leaders made Britain in the 1970s feel alternately like a war-zone and a lunatic asylum.

The Tory philosophy since 1979 has been that "unemployment is a price worth paying for stable prices", as Norman Lamont once remarked in Parliament. Conventional wisdom now emphatically shares this view. But the political consequences of saying this loudly and in public can still be disastrous, as Mr Lamont would be the first to admit.

Britain's long-term record on jobs is thus a two-edged sword for the Government. It is presumably for this reason that the Tories have decided to focus not so much on Britain's own employment performance, but on how it compares with the rest of Europe. Given the recent contrast between Britain's excellent employment figures and the grim news from Germany and France, this is understandable. Nevertheless, there are pitfalls.

In theory, the Government is



almost certainly right that Britain has benefited because of its deregulated markets. In practice, the message may prove hard to sell. Whatever the statistics may say, it will be hard to convince voters that Britain is an economic titan while Germany is an eight-stone weakling.

I can personally attest to this. In the past seven years, I have often argued that Germany's economic strength has been overstated, that the Bundesbank has mismanaged monetary policy, that the mark needs to be devalued, that Frankfurt will never become Europe's financial capital and that Germany's vaunted emphasis on manufacturing could make it the rust-belt of Europe.

Arguments like these can be based on sound economic theories and incontrovertible statistics, but let me share a little secret with Conservative Central Office: my mailbag suggests readers remain unconvinced. In fact, the more I point out that Germany, France and Italy have been running their economies rather badly, the more I find myself on the receiving end of incredulous and aggressive protests, usually from people who sound like hardcore Tories disgusted by what they feel has been Britain's ineluctable slide in relative living standards, political status and economic power.

In part, the public's incredulity about Britain's status as the model economy of Europe reflects what economists call a "slow-response function". If a country has been in relative decline for a century or more, it is bound to take years, even decades or generations, for the conviction to grow that the trend has really been reversed. But there is more to the public's

scepticism than mere blind prejudice. The fact is that Britain's superiority over the other European economies is far from obvious. When Britons go to Germany, Italy or even Spain, they return impressed by the generally high living standards and efficient public services. The statistically inclined also know that Germany, France and Italy have all overtaken Britain in terms of per capita incomes — and some may even be aware that Ireland will, within the next year, achieve higher living standards than Britain for the first time since the Dark Ages.

There are plenty of reasons in question the slogan that "Europe isn't working" from a statistical point of view. Starting with employment, Britain's performance may be better than Europe's at the moment, but it remains to be seen how much of the difference is due to the Tory policies of flexibility and deregulation and how much is simply a consequence of the vagaries of the economic cycle. Britain's performance since 1993 has been excellent relative to the rest of Europe, but occurred during recovery from a horrendous recession, while the European economy — suffering from single currency — has been needlessly slowing down.

In the long term, however,

there has been almost no difference in the rate of job creation in Britain, France and Italy: all three have had an abysmal average growth rate of less than 0.2 per cent per year since 1979. (I have omitted Germany because unification

gave both employment and output a huge but temporary boost). There has also been little to choose between GDP growth in Britain, Italy and France. These comparisons beg a fascinating question, to which I hope to return in another article. If flexibility and deregulation is really as beneficial as is generally believed, how much better would Italy, France and Germany have done than Britain if their regulations and red tape?

As the two charts in the top panel illustrate, Britain's lacklustre relative performance is not just a consequence of taking 1979 as a starting point. Britain would not have done much better if the comparisons had started with 1987 or 1990. In this sense it is not sufficient for the Tories to claim that Britain would have done much better had it not been for the mess left behind by the Labour governments of the 1970s. That is true, but it is equally valid to point out the mess left behind by Nigel Lawson and John Major when they were Chancellors. Only by starting from 1982-83 or 1991-92 — from the depths of the two great recessions — can Britain claim to have done much better than France or Italy in job creation and economic growth.

And what of the situation today? Surely Britain's latest unemployment figure of only 6.2 per cent stands out like a beacon against the levels of 11 and 12 per cent in the leading Continental countries? The answer again is yes and no. Overall unemployment is certainly much higher than in Britain in all Continental countries apart from Denmark. The Netherlands and Luxembourg. But looking more closely at

These figures do not imply that Britain ought to adopt the Continental approach of protecting the jobs of entrenched male workers at the expense of women and the young. Neither do they refute the Tory claim that Europe would gain by copying Britain's more deregulated and flexible approach to markets and jobs. They do, however, suggest why many people in Britain still look with envy at Europe — even if in theory Europe does not work.

US jeans firm finds seat in London

Lois Letts finds out why an American retailer has chosen Britain as a base for its European expansion



Guess? campaign is credited with launching the career of Claudia Schiffer

generating consumer interest, the jeans have not been sold in Britain until now.

European expansion is being funded by the public offering, last August, of 16 per cent of the company's stock. Although this raised \$140 million for the business, the launch was not a success. Facing a soft market

the Marcianos were forced to reduce the number of shares on offer from 9.2 million to seven million, while the share price was cut from \$23 to \$18. It has now slumped to \$11.

However, money managers in the US are not unduly worried. Guess? Inc's turnover was \$551 million last year, with a

net income of \$34.4 million, exceeding analysts' predictions. Many observers consider Guess? shares to be inexpensive in light of the company's sales and earnings, and are confident that the big drive overseas will filter through to profits in 1998. Paul Marciano is sanguine about the experience of the flotation: "The entire sector is in disfavour by Wall Street at the moment because the fashion industry is seen as volatile. Donna Karan and Calvin Klein have also suffered."

Brompton Road will be the first British store to stock the entire Guess? collection, ranging from eyewear and watches to stretch jeans and a soft brown leather jacket retailing for about £500. The launch party at the Work Studios in Parsons Green will be attended by Paul Marciano and by Bella Freud and Beni Le Bon, the designers, and Yasmin Le Bon, the model. The jeans will be manufactured by Macro Apparel S.r.l., a joint venture with Fingen Group, of Florence. But they will continue to be designed in Los Angeles under the eye of Maurice Marciano, the company chairman.

Guess? has attracted criticism in the past for its raunchy, some felt sexist, advertising campaigns which launched the likes of Claudia Schiffer, the supermodel. This spring's advertisements featuring Laetitia Casta, a French teenager, are relatively free of innuendo. "We want to reflect what the young generation is feeling today. It's all about friendship, self-confidence and feeling good about themselves," said Maurice Marciano.

Custodian deal highlights global trend

Robert Miller assesses the implications of a new bank with £250bn of assets

A new but little-known bank opens its doors for business on Monday with a not inconsiderable £250 billion worth of assets to manage.

The Royal Bank of Scotland's Trust Bank is one of a new breed of banks that completes a vital link in the security chain that ultimately protects the assets of tens of millions of investors in pension schemes, personal equity plans (Peps), unit and investment trusts, life funds and private client portfolios.

More than £1 trillion worth of assets worldwide are held on behalf of investors and the Securities and Investments Board, the most senior City watchdog, headed by Sir Andrew Large, has estimated that the top ten custodian banks in the UK alone hold domestic assets worth £700 billion.

The new RBS Trust Bank, which will today conclude its acquisition of the Custody and Investor Services division of SG Warburg, has got its timing right. The subject matter may appear dry but its importance to the future safety of pensions and general investments cannot be understated.

Last year the SIB issued new rules for the custody of assets. The driving force behind the tough new rules, as with the new Pensions Act which begins to bite next month, was in part the Maxwell pension fund losses and the more recent £830 million Barings crash. The day-to-day supervision of the global custodians is mainly in the hands of Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, but also the Securities and Futures Authority, which polices brokers and futures traders. For the first time, global custody of assets has come into the net of the Financial Services Act so that in the event of a failure or misappropriation of funds the Investors Compensation Scheme is there as a final safety net.

The attraction of buying in a third-party administration service from a custodian, such as RBS, Citibank or Midland, is that the typical fund manager's operation has become so complex it is now simpler and more cost-effective to use an outside body to look after administration and paperwork. If

investments such as diamonds, cash, property deeds or gold. Nevertheless, says Mr Lindsay, such items may be covered if they are held by an authorised custodian who also looks after securities.

The City watchdogs have warned custodians that "identification and periodic checking of customers' investments will be carried out" and possibly without prior warning. There has also been criticism from some fund managers that the new standards being imposed on them are just another costly exercise in regulation. As the SIB has said: "In the SIB's judgement, as these standards reflect existing good practice, the additional costs of compliance are not likely to be significant."

With political parties laying emphasis on greater provision for retirement and long-term care, it does not seem unreasonable that part of that cost should go towards safeguarding assets.

FREE CALLS FOR LIFE

NEW VERAPHONE® TARIFF

INCLUDES 15 MINUTES OF CALLS PER MONTH UP TO £72 PER YEAR INCLUDING PEAK CALLS

FREE LIFETIME CARRY CASE AND IN-CAR ADAPTER WORTH £55 INC. VAT

FREE COUNTDOWN MEMBERSHIP FOR 1 YEAR WITH THE CELLPHONES DIRECT ADVANTAGE CARD

FREE LIFETIME PRODUCT WARRANTY

FREE 30-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

We'll match any nationally advertised offer for this phone.

VERAPHONE® PERSONALWORLD 23 TARIFF

CONNECTION CHARGE £35.00

MONTHLY RENTAL £17.50

PEAK CALLS IN 24HR OFF-PEAK CALLS

40p per min 12p per min

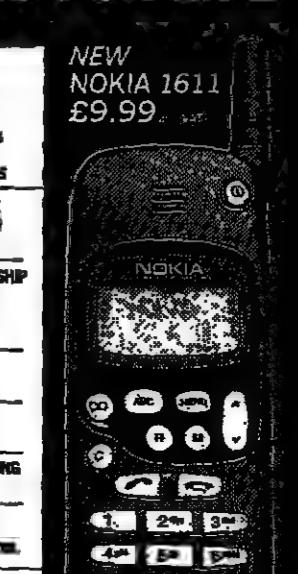
NEW GSM MODEL 1511

♦ Up to 3.5 hrs talking

110 hrs standby

♦ SMS send and receive

♦ Weight 250g



Cellphones

THE NAME TO TRUST IN TELEPHONE SHOPPING

QUOTE WEE 5413

FREEPHONE 0800 000 888

CO-OP CARD MEMBER PRICE £35.00 PER MONTH

PEAK CALLS IN 24HR OFF-PEAK CALLS

40p per min 12p per min

NEW GSM MODEL 1511

♦ Up to 3.5 hrs talking

110 hrs standby

♦ SMS send and receive

♦ Weight 250g

Cellphones

THE NAME TO TRUST IN TELEPHONE SHOPPING

QUOTE WEE 5413

FREEPHONE 0800 000 888

CO-OP CARD MEMBER PRICE £35.00 PER MONTH

PEAK CALLS IN 24HR OFF-PEAK CALLS

40p per min 12p per min

NEW GSM MODEL 1511

♦ Up to 3.5 hrs talking

110 hrs standby

♦ SMS send and receive

♦ Weight 250g

Laing gives warning on Labour's windfall tax

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE OF Britain's largest construction groups yesterday issued a warning that Labour's proposed windfall tax could stifle recovery in the building trade should the party come to power.

The attack by John Laing is one of the first to be made on Labour's key tax-raising plan from a business outside the utilities. Sir Martin Laing, chairman, said that it was important that the sustained growth being seen in construction should not be "stifled by a hiatus in government decision-making after the election or by policies that could adversely affect the capital expenditure programmes of the utilities sector".

A company spokesman said that a one-year hit on spending that could have a worse impact than the recent recession.

Utilities companies are some of the biggest spenders on construction and John Laing is concerned that they would shelve large projects if forced to pay a windfall tax expected to raise £3 billion.

With Labour sources indicating an ever-widening net of companies that could be affected by the tax, concern is expected to deepen in the construction industry.

Sir Martin said: "The utilities sector is one of the drivers of growth in the construction sector and it is important that policy changes do not adverse-

ly affect the capital expenditure programmes of clients."

The company's research estimates that the broad range of utilities, including rail, telecoms and airports along with the water, electricity and gas companies, spend £10 billion a year on capital projects. Although not all of that is spent on new building, it compares with the annual £28 billion spent on new building across all areas of the construction sector.

James Armstrong, finance director, said he expected leading contractors' groups to lobby Labour over its windfall plans. Although he did not expect a change of heart, groups may lobby for regulatory relaxations so utilities still have spending power.

Last year, John Laing lifted pre-tax profits 21 per cent to £24.5 million. Sales edged 4 per cent higher in the year to December 31 to £1.25 billion.

The company believes there will be a return to growth in construction of 2 per cent this year, after a fall of 10 per cent over the past six years. The company's order book is 21 per cent up on the year, it added, while the property market was strengthening, with retail at the forefront of the growth.

The dividend, which has been pegged at 9p for four years, was raised to 4.5p for the year. The final payment, due on July 4, was set at 0.5p.



David Kent, left, of SIG AP, and Graham Dewhurst, director at NatWest Ventures

Managers buy SIG outlet

By PAUL DURMAN

SIG, the building materials group, has sold its architectural hardware arm to a management buyout team backed by £82 million of funding arranged by NatWest Ventures.

SIG AP, headed by David Kent, chief executive, designs and distributes hardware for

windows and doors. Last year the business had sales of £67.2 million, and lifted operating profits to £7.1 million.

NatWest Ventures has made an equity investment of £3.3 million. NatWest Markets and Midland Bank have provided £39 million of senior debt. A further £10 million of mezzanine finance was pro-

vided by ABN Amro Causeway Mezzanine and Mithras Investment Trust.

Graham Dewhurst, director at NatWest Ventures, said: "Forecasts for the housing market and the domestic economy over the next three years are positive. This is an excellent time for us to invest in SIG AP."

overcapacity in the sector and operating profits, before exceptional, fell 35 per cent on sales 2 per cent lower. Australia also proved a difficult market, given the country's sharpest downturn in housing for more than 20 years. Operating profit fell 32 per cent on sales that were 8 per cent lower. The final dividend, payable on May 30, was held at 2.1p, for an unchanged total of 3.0p.

Rugby was cautious in its predictions for markets this year while issuing a warning that the strength of sterling

would affect profits and that the long election campaign

would create uncertainty in the UK economy.

More jobs under threat in Rugby revamp

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MORE jobs may be lost at Rugby Group, the cement maker, joinery and building materials business, as the company completes a restructuring aimed at cutting costs and boosting margins.

The reshaping of the group, which includes large opera-

tions in the United States and Australia as well as the UK, began last year but has further to go, according to Peter Johnson, chief executive. A reduction in jobs had already been anticipated after Rugby bought Boulton & Paul, the low-making windows and doors manufacturer, last month. Then it was predicted

that up to 800 of the combined workforce of John Carr, Rugby's existing business, and Boulton & Paul might go.

Rugby saw pre-tax profits before exceptional, fall 14 per cent to £62.5 million last year.

After exceptional, the figures rose 15 per cent to £52.0 million (£45.8 million).

John Carr suffered from

overcapacity in the sector and operating profits, before exceptional, fell 35 per cent on sales 2 per cent lower. Australia also proved a difficult market, given the country's sharpest downturn in housing for more than 20 years. Operating profit fell 32 per cent on sales that were 8 per cent lower. The final dividend, payable on May 30, was held at 2.1p, for an unchanged total of 3.0p.

Rugby was cautious in its predictions for markets this year while issuing a warning that the strength of sterling

would affect profits and that the long election campaign

would create uncertainty in the UK economy.

There is a final dividend of 1.25p a share, due on July 1, leaving the total unchanged at 2p.

IBSTOCK hit by shake-up and low prices

IBSTOCK hit by shake-up and low prices

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A SLUMP in pulp prices and restructuring costs sliced into the pre-tax profits of Ibstock, the brick manufacturer that also runs woodpulp mill and forestry operations in Portugal.

Ibstock, which became one of the UK's top two brick manufacturers when it bought Redland's bricks business last year, reported a fall in 1996 pre-tax profits to £8.2 million from £26.1 million.

The forestry products division, whose earnings are largely determined by pulp prices, incurred a £1.9 million loss compared with a £1.2 million profit in 1995. In addition, there were restructuring costs of £3.9 million for Ibstock's UK brick operations.

The Leicestershire company predicted that pulp prices would continue to be weak during the first half of this year.

After integrating Redland Brick, Ibstock said it was able to achieve annual cost savings of £8 million. Sir Colin Hope, chairman, said he expected the slow improvement in UK construction activity to continue through the year.

Last year, however, the brick market was shaped by low prices, although a pickup was delivered by an increase in housebuilding in the second half.

Ibstock described this year as one of consolidation and operating focus after the company's transition in 1996. The purchase of Redland Brick last year gave Ibstock a 31 per cent share of the market, putting it on a par with Hanson Brick.

Ibstock had been forced to sell factories producing 4 per cent of the market demand after it bought Redland by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, in order that the deal should avoid a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

There is a final dividend of 1.25p a share, due on July 1, leaving the total unchanged at 2p.

Abbott Mead Vickers soars to a record

ABBOTT MEAD VICKERS, the advertising agency, reported record year-end results but said its growth had nothing to do with the recovery from the recession. Peter Mead, who replaced David Abbott as chairman in January, said the results, showing pre-tax profits 39 per cent ahead at £14.5 million, were thanks to acquisitions, not the economic upturn. The new businesses generated £34.7 million in sales last year, bringing overall sales to £388 million (£25.7 million).

It won £45 million of new business over the year, including accounts from BT, Prudential and Gavick Express. It was also responsible for the relaunch of Pepsi, which turned its cans blue last Easter. This created business for one of its PR divisions, which painted Concorde blue. Its marketing division delivered a strong performance, making more than 50 per cent of operating profits for the first time.

Overall, earnings rose to 24.1p from 18.6p a share. A final dividend of 7.75p, due on June 16, brings the total to 11p.

Burford rises to £15m

BURFORD HOLDINGS, the innovative property group that has spawned no fewer than three demerged companies in Trocadero, Granchester and Columbus, yesterday reported a rise in 1996 pre-tax profits to £15.06 million, from £11.16 million. Net asset value, including the free Granchester and Columbus shares distributed to shareholders, rose 21 per cent, to 122.9p a share. Earnings from continuing operations rose 7 per cent, to 2.94p a share. There is a final dividend of 1.15p a share, making a total of 2.1p, up 11 per cent.

Barclays in buyback

BARCLAYS BANK yesterday announced that it had completed the first part of its share repurchase programme by buying 3.9 million shares at a price of 1090.2p a share. Since unveiling a 13 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £2.4 billion on February 26, Barclay has repurchased 2.6 million ordinary shares at an average price of 112.55p, paying a total of £290 million. Martin Taylor, chief executive of the bank, has said up to £500 million will be returned to shareholders during the next 12 months.

Sterling slows McBride

THE STRENGTH of sterling hit first-half sales growth at McBride, Europe's largest manufacturer of own-label household products and toiletries, the company revealed yesterday. Translated into sterling, sales were flat in the six months to December 31. At constant exchange rates, sales of core products were up 5.4 per cent. Pre-tax profit was £13.2 million (£8 million). Earnings per share were 5.7p (3.7p) and the interim dividend, payable on May 19, is 2.35p (2.25p).

PowerGen buyout

POWERGEN, the second biggest generator, has bought out its joint partner in Kinetica, the gas retailer. In an £18 million deal PowerGen takes full ownership of the business from Conoco and will take on liabilities for expensive take or pay contracts up to £69 million. The liabilities for the contracts will be split equally between PowerGen and Conoco. Kinetica is one of the largest independent gas retailers with about 10 per cent of the industrial and commercial market.

Steel Burrill down 61%

PRE-TAX profit at Steel Burrill Jones, the insurance broker, fell 61 per cent to £2.2 million (£5.7 million) in 1996. The company announced yesterday. It said conditions would continue to be "hostile" this year. Turnover at the retail arm was an improved £21.1 million (£19.6 million), but brokerage and fees in the London market slipped to £18.8 million (£23.3 million). A proposed final dividend of 0.75p will be paid on May 22, making a total of 1.5p (4.5p).

Microvitec declines

MICROVITEC, the international technology group with operations in Britain, Germany and North America, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £460,000 (£3.4 million). Although sales rose to £65.2 million (£55.1 million), profits were adversely affected by a reduction in prices of many components. The strong pound also hit export markets. Earnings were 0.21p a share (3.1p). The final dividend is held at 0.45p a share, making a total of 0.875p (0.85p).

Carclo pays £25.6m

CARCLO ENGINEERING is paying £25.6 million for the technical mouldings division of EIS Group, which is concentrating on making equipment for the oil, gas and aerospace industries. The technical mouldings business, founded around Davall Moulded Gears and Silleck Mouldings, serves the automotive, electronics and office automation markets. It expects to report a £3 million operating profit on sales of £37 million.

Therapeutic spending

THERAPEUTIC ANTIBODIES, the drug development company whose shares have fallen by a quarter since its flotation in London last July, spent \$9.7 million on research and development last year, 50 per cent more than in 1995. Revenues increased 26 per cent to \$744,000, while net losses deepened to \$12.75 million (£9.1 million loss). The company, based in Nashville, finished the year with \$22.5 million in cash and short-term investments.

Keller shows strength

PRE-TAX profits at Keller Group, the international ground engineering company, rose to £12.5 million (£11.2 million), with a strong second-half performance offsetting the adverse impact of severe weather in Europe in the first half. Turnover was 7 per cent higher at £235 million. Activity in Germany, the 3.9p final lifts the total 10 per cent to 5.85p, payable from earnings that rose 19 per cent to 13.4p a share.

Tottenham profits dented by transfer market spending

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

ALAN SUGAR, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, admitted yesterday that the club had had a disappointing season, but claimed that it is close to having a squad capable of challenging for major honours.

Operating costs at the club rose 13 per cent to £10 million because of an increase in the playing staff. The company added that it has renegotiated a number of the players' contracts to ensure protection against the Bosman ruling and that the full impact of this increase in costs would be felt in future years.

Tottenham announced a 13 per cent rise in half-year operating profit to £7.1 million, while overall turnover also rose 13 per cent to £17.1 million.

The club spent £10.8 million in the first half of the year on new players, including Allan Nielsen and Ramon Vega. Headline profits before tax fell from £10.7 million to £6 million as a result of the transfer market expenditure. The club also made a £2.6 million write-down on the squad's balance sheet valuation to take account of the Bosman ruling.

The company has completed



Sugar: disappointing season

Chemicals group lifts profit to £62.5m in difficult environment

Albright eyes emerging markets

By MARTIN BARROW

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the UK specialty chemicals company, is targeting emerging markets in Latin America, China and India for future expansion.

Expansion into geographic areas offering higher growth rates is already under way with investments in Mexico and in joint ventures in the Asia Pacific region. Robin Paul, chief executive, said: "It is to these markets the group will increasingly turn to generate the growth in revenues from new and existing products."

The company said it had also made progress in its efforts to enhance competitiveness in traditional areas of operation, although the financial benefit was likely to

be masked by the adverse impact of the stronger pound in 1997.

Mr Paul said: "The immediate challenge for management is to seek ways to mitigate the impact of the currency effect to ensure cost and price competitiveness is maintained in the UK business."

Yesterday Albright & Wilson reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £62.5 million from £55 million, which the company said was "a satisfactory result in an environment that has offered little assistance in the various markets in which the group operates". The price of raw materials stabilised, having added £40 million to costs in 1995.

Earnings were 13.9p a share (12.3p). The total dividend is 6.9p a share (6.5p).

with a 4.65p final. The shares rose 21p to 147p yesterday, although they remain well below the high of 207.1p achieved in 1996. The company was floated on the stock market in 1995 after 17 years as part of Tenneco Inc, the US industrial group.

In the key phosphates business, which supplies products from soft drinks to washing powders, sales rose 8 per cent to £361 million, including associate companies, but operating profits fell 7.5 per cent to £47 million, with margins down to 13 per cent (15.2 per cent). Mr Paul said phosphates had been affected by special factors, including higher Chinese phosphorus prices and costs and distortions linked to capacity increases and plant refurbishments in England and Mexico.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER AND COMPETITION THE TIMES

Five kilim stools worth £400 each to be won

Times readers have the chance to win a beautiful kilim stool from Clock House Furniture. The kilims are hand woven in Turkey in a range of traditional colours and designs. Worth £400 each, they can be mounted on a wide choice of leg styles from mahogany finish Queen Ann to modern shapes stained to suit your decor. Clock House Furniture recognised a gap in the market seven years ago and is now making stools to order in any fabric, kilim or needlepoint, including Ottomans, window seats and club fenders. For a brochure call Nicholas Parry on 01620 861300.

HOW TO ENTER
Phone our hotline 0839 444 546 with your answer to: Where are Clock House kilim stools hand woven?
a) Afghanistan b) India c) Turkey

FREE tickets for the BBC Good Homes Show
Plus a £10,000 Miele fitted kitchen to be won

The Times offers you FREE ticket, worth at least £7.50, for the first ever BBC Good Homes Show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from April 9-13. Collect three differently numbered tokens and send them, with a stamped sae marked on the front with which day you wish to attend and the application form which will appear again tomorrow. Your name will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win the £10,000 Miele kitchen, left.

Throughout the week there will be live performances in the Lloyds Bank Insurance Direct Celebrity Theatre featuring celebrities from BBC shows. Lady Caroline Wrey will teach you how to dress a window as well as make blinds and accessories. Jocasta Innes who was featured in yesterday's competition, will give away her Paint Magic secrets, and Ann Morris, America's "House Doctor" reveals the secret of selling a home. Call 0121 767 4000 to pre-book theatre and show admission tickets. (For a Miele brochure call 01235 554588.)

THE TIMES</b

Heavy selling of second liners

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

475	22% Memory Corp	40%	-	0.8	70.7
239	100% Old English Pub	25%	-	-	-
390	15% Penn Rail	25%	-	-	-
1265	37% Range Egg	100%	-	0.1	-
757	52% Southern Reset	75%	-	3.0	24.5
75%	50% Southwest Vents	69%+	-	3.4	15.0
495	12% Sunray F. Inst	45%	-5	0.7	31.1
73%	53% Metaphase	35%	-	-	-

THE TIMES LINE TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

YOUR BEST OPTION

Europe
Linnco

competitive commissions
& "big ticket" discounts

Liffe futures,
Index & Equity options and all the
world's futures markets

Liffe Europe Ltd - Regulated by the FSA
London EC2A 1LE For International callers, Int +44 171 282 8436

RISK WARNING: Futures and options are high-risk investments and may not be suitable for you. If you are in any doubt please consult your financial advisor. Prices can go down as well as up and this can lead to losses in excess of monies deposited.

0800 252 167

KLEINMONT FUND TRUST LTD

Detracted: 0171 909 7304

Detracted: 0171 909 7305

Detracted: 0171 909 7306

Detracted: 0171 909 7307

Detracted: 0171 909 7308

Detracted: 0171 909 7309

Detracted: 0171 909 7310

Detracted: 0171 909 7311

Detracted: 0171 909 7312

Detracted: 0171 909 7313

Detracted: 0171 909 7314

Detracted: 0171 909 7315

Detracted: 0171 909 7316

Detracted: 0171 909 7317

Detracted: 0171 909 7318

Detracted: 0171 909 7319

Detracted: 0171 909 7320

Detracted: 0171 909 7321

Detracted: 0171 909 7322

Detracted: 0171 909 7323

Detracted: 0171 909 7324

Detracted: 0171 909 7325

Detracted: 0171 909 7326

Detracted: 0171 909 7327

Detracted: 0171 909 7328

Detracted: 0171 909 7329

Detracted: 0171 909 7330

Detracted: 0171 909 7331

Detracted: 0171 909 7332

Detracted: 0171 909 7333

Detracted: 0171 909 7334

Detracted: 0171 909 7335

Detracted: 0171 909 7336

Detracted: 0171 909 7337

Detracted: 0171 909 7338

Detracted: 0171 909 7339

Detracted: 0171 909 7340

Detracted: 0171 909 7341

Detracted: 0171 909 7342

Detracted: 0171 909 7343

Detracted: 0171 909 7344

Detracted: 0171 909 7345

Detracted: 0171 909 7346

Detracted: 0171 909 7347

Detracted: 0171 909 7348

Detracted: 0171 909 7349

Detracted: 0171 909 7350

Detracted: 0171 909 7351

Detracted: 0171 909 7352

Detracted: 0171 909 7353

Detracted: 0171 909 7354

Detracted: 0171 909 7355

Detracted: 0171 909 7356

Detracted: 0171 909 7357

Detracted: 0171 909 7358

Detracted: 0171 909 7359

Detracted: 0171 909 7360

Detracted: 0171 909 7361

Detracted: 0171 909 7362

Detracted: 0171 909 7363

Detracted: 0171 909 7364

Detracted: 0171 909 7365

Detracted: 0171 909 7366

Detracted: 0171 909 7367

Detracted: 0171 909 7368

Detracted: 0171 909 7369

Detracted: 0171 909 7370

Detracted: 0171 909 7371

Detracted: 0171 909 7372

Detracted: 0171 909 7373

Detracted: 0171 909 7374

Detracted: 0171 909 7375

Detracted: 0171 909 7376

Detracted: 0171 909 7377

Detracted: 0171 909 7378

Detracted: 0171 909 7379

Detracted: 0171 909 7380

Detracted: 0171 909 7381

Detracted: 0171 909 7382

Detracted: 0171 909 7383

Detracted: 0171 909 7384

Detracted: 0171 909 7385

Detracted: 0171 909 7386

Detracted: 0171 909 7387

Detracted: 0171 909 7388

Detracted: 0171 909 7389

Detracted: 0171 909 7390

Detracted: 0171 909 7391

Detracted: 0171 909 7392

Detracted: 0171 909 7393

Detracted: 0171 909 7394

Detracted: 0171 909 7395

Detracted: 0171 909 7396

Detracted: 0171 909 7397

Detracted: 0171 909 7398

Detracted: 0171 909 7399

Detracted: 0171 909 7390

Detracted: 0171 909 7391

Detracted: 0171 909 7392

Detracted: 0171 909 7393

Detracted: 0171 909 7394

Detracted: 0171 909 7395

Detracted: 0171 909 7396

Detracted: 0171 909 7397

Detracted: 0171 909 7398

Detracted: 0171 909 7399

Detracted: 0171 909 7390

Detracted: 0171 909 7391

Detracted: 0171 909 7392

Detracted: 0171 909 7393

Detracted: 0171 909 7394

Detracted: 0171 909 7395

Detracted: 0171 909 7396

Detracted: 0171 909 7397

Detracted: 0171 909 7398

Detracted: 0171 909 7399

Detracted: 0171 909 7390

Detracted: 0171 909 7391

Detracted: 0171 909 7392

Detracted: 0171 909 7393

Detracted: 0171 909 7394

Detracted: 0171 909 7395

Detracted: 0171 909 7396

Detracted: 0171 909 7397

Detracted: 0171 909 7398

Detracted: 0171 909 7399

Detracted: 0171 909 7390

Detracted: 0171 909 7391

Detracted: 0171 909 7392

Detracted: 0171 909 7393

Detracted: 0171 909 7394

Detracted: 0171 909 7395

Detracted: 0171 909 7396

Detracted: 0171 909 7397

Detracted: 0171 909 7398

Detracted: 0171 909 7399

Detracted: 0171 909 7390

Detracted: 0171 909 7391

Detracted: 0171 909 7392

Detracted: 0171 909 7393

Detracted: 0171 909 7394

<div data-bbox

Cost relevant in assessing needs of sick

Regina v Gloucestershire County Council and Another, Ex parte Barry, S v Same

Before Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Clyde [Speeches March 20]

The cost of the arrangements and its resources were a proper consideration for a local authority to take into account in assessing, under section 2(l) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, whether a person had a need and whether it was necessary to make arrangements to meet it.

The House of Lords allowed by a majority (Lord Lloyd and Lord Steyn dissenting) an appeal by Gloucestershire County Council from the Court of Appeal (*The Times* July 12, 1996; [1996] 4 All ER 421) who by a majority (Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Sir John Banks) had allowed an appeal by Mr Michael Barry against part of a decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice McCowan and My Justice Waller) (*The Times* June 21, 1995; [1995] 30 BMLR 20) granting judicial review of decisions of the council to withdraw services under section 2 from Mr Barry but refusing his application for an additional declaration that the council had not been entitled to take account of the resources available to them.

Section 2(l) of the 1970 Act, as amended by section 14(l) of and paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, section 27(l) of and Schedule 30 to the Local Government Act 1972 and section 66 of and para-

graph 12 of Schedule 4 and Schedule 10 to the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 provides:

"Where a local authority having functions under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948 are satisfied in the case of any person to whom that section applies who is ordinarily resident in their area that it is necessary in order to meet the needs of that person for that authority to make arrangements for all or any of the following matters [a] to [h], then ... it shall be the duty of that authority to make those arrangements."

Mr Patrick Eccles, QC and Mr Christopher Frazer for the council; Mr Nigel Fleming, QC and Mr Steven Kovats for the Secretary of State; Mr Michael Barry, Mr Richard Gordon, QC, Mr Alan Maclean and Mr Stephen Cragg for Mr Barry.

Lord Lloyd, dissenting, said that Mr Barry was coming up for his eighty second birthday. In 1992 he had been in hospital after a slight stroke. He had also had several heart attacks and could not see well. He lived alone, although two friends called from time to time to do things for him. He got around with a walking frame having fractured his hip some years ago.

In September 1992 his needs had been assessed by the council as "Home care to call twice a week for washing, pension, laundry, cleaning. Meals on wheels four days a week." The council had arranged to provide those services. In August 1993, after a routine visit, his needs had been assessed as the same.

Then on September 29, 1994 he had a letter from the council

Seamus Andrews for Mr Cambridge.

Cambridge v Callaghan and Another

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Miller and Mr Justice Mance

[Judgment March 11]

In order to ensure the Motor Insurers' Bureau met the liability of uninsured drivers it was a mandatory requirement that it be served with official evidence of instigation of proceedings either by way of a copy of the stamped writ or by a copy of the notice of issue of default summons.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing a cross-appeal by Michael Cambridge on appeal by the Motor Insurers' Bureau against an order of Judge Townsend at Blackpool County Court on July 19, 1996.

The judge had allowed Mr Cambridge's appeal from a district judge's decision that the condition precedent of liability on the part of MIB to satisfy judgment obtained against an uninsured driver was not met.

Mr Cambridge had been injured in a motor accident allegedly due to the negligence of Peter Calla-

ghan, an uninsured driver uninsured at the issue of proceedings. MIB had joined as a second defendant and disputed that it had been given notice in the form prescribed by clause 5 of the agreement by which it agreed to meet the liability of uninsured drivers.

Mr Cambridge's solicitor had sent a letter to MIB notifying the bringing of proceedings and enclosing a notice of issue of a default summons.

Clause 5 of the Motor Insurers' Bureau (Compensation of Victims of Uninsured Drivers) Agreement of December 21, 1988 issued by the Department of Transport provides:

"(1) MIB shall not incur any liability under Clause 2 ... unless ... (a) notice in writing of the bringing of proceedings is given within seven days after the commencement of the proceedings ... (i) to MIB ... or (ii) to the insurer. Such notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the writ, summons or other document initiating the proceedings..."

Mr Dermot O'Brien, QC and Mr James McKeon for MIB; Mr David Stockdale, QC and Mr

Seamus Andrews for Mr Cambridge.

Power to order detention of child for treatment

In re C (a Minor) (Medical treatment: Court's jurisdiction)

Before Mr Justice Wall

[Judgment March 5]

A clinic whose primary purpose was to provide treatment for eating disorders was not "secure accommodation" within the meaning of section 25 of the Children Act 1989; accordingly that section, which regulated the placement and retention of minors in secure accommodation, did not operate to fetter the court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division in a reserved

judgment handed down in chambers and reported with leave of the judge when granting an application by the local authority for an order made pursuant to the High Court's inherent jurisdiction to detain a child aged 16 in a clinic so that the child could be treated for an eating disorder.

Miss Alison Ball, QC, for the local authority; Mr Roderic Wood, QC, for the child; Mr David G. P. Turner for the parents; Mr James Munby, QC, as amicus curiae.

Mr Justice Wall said that the child was suffering from anorexia nervosa and had a history of absconding from the clinic. The local authority did not wish to apply for a care order for good reasons.

Even though the child maintained she was in agreement with the treatment she was receiving

and that there was no need for an order, the clinic was now only prepared to accept her back under either a care order or as a ward of court.

The question was whether the court, exercising its inherent jurisdiction, had the power to detain a child aged 16 in a specified institution for the purposes of medical treatment.

In *In re W (a Minor) (Medical treatment: Court's jurisdiction)* (1993) Fam 349, the Court of Appeal held that the court's inherent jurisdiction under its parents' jurisdiction was theoretically limitless and extended to authorising doctors to treat a minor in accordance with their clinical judgment.

Furthermore, two recent cases, *Norfolk and Norwich Healthcare (NHS) Trust v W* [1996] 2 FLR 613 the court's inherent jurisdiction

and *Rochdale Healthcare (NHS) Trust v C* [1997] 1 FCR 274 had confirmed that the court had power at common law to authorise the use of reasonable force if necessary.

On the evidence, residence in the clinic was an essential component of her treatment. The child's welfare was paramount and it was clearly in her best interests to be treated.

Accordingly, the court had the power to direct that the clinic should detain her as an in-patient, using reasonable force if necessary, until she was discharged by her doctors or the court ordered otherwise.

If, however, it could be shown that the clinic was secure accommodation within the meaning of section 25 of the Children Act 1989 the court's inherent jurisdiction

would be ousted.

It was well established that premises not designed as secure accommodation could become so by virtue of the use to which they were put but, as the clinic's primary purpose was the treatment of the sick, it was not "accommodation provided for the purpose of restricting liberty" and section 25 did not operate.

Accordingly, the court had the power to direct that the clinic should detain her as an in-patient, using reasonable force if necessary, until she was discharged by her doctors or the court ordered otherwise.

Mr Justice Wall held that the court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.

The court's inherent jurisdiction to make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court had power to direct that the child should be detained as an in-patient at the clinic for the purposes of medical treatment, using reasonable force if necessary.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division on 14 March 1997.



THEATRE: A subtle *Art* continues to impress; but Brian Friel's latest stylish offering loses something in production

Friends in the frame

It began as a play and is becoming a phenomenon. Who would have thought that as wise a comedy as Yasmina Reza's *Art* would pack out Wyndham's for five months and, after a major change of cast, not just be booking until next October but boasting a box-office advance of £250,000? The current wisdom is that, unless a piece has big stars, soaring helicopters or tunes by Lord Lloyd-Webber, it can enjoy only a modest success in the West End. It has taken the French-Iranian Reza to disprove this.

Recasting has taken some of the decisiveness out of Matthew Warchus's production, but it has added subtlety. Anton Lesser is less wintry than Tom Courtenay as Serge, the dermatologist who spends 200,000 francs on a painting that consists of a white rectangle with half-visible white streaks. David Haig is less heavy than Albert Finney as Marc, the aeronautical engineer who cannot hide his belief that his oldest chum has been dabbled by the chic opportunists of the art market. The differences between the two are less inordinate, so it is more creditable that they have been and still believe themselves close friends.

But the big change comes in Yvan, who regards both as his best friends and is regarded by both as wet. For a time, I thought Mark Williams as a slightly disappointing substitute for Ken Stott, who brought astonishing bravura to what is already one of the modern theatre's great set pieces, a long paean of self-pity in which Yvan evokes the emotional chaos of his impending marriage. But his slower, goofier approach pays off. At the end one realises, as one did not with Stott, that this woe-begone pig-in-the-middle has been badly damaged by the fallout from a quarrel that, in its cool, Parisian way, has threatened to go nuclear.

Indeed, his performance

Art
Wyndham's

made it clear why Reza must be something mildly graceless about "thinking I had written a tragedy" when she received a best comedy award last year. At the time I thought she had failed to see that the English see good comedy as a more serious, textured business than they do on the Paris boulevards. But, hilarious though it often is, there is more insecurity, fear, unfulfilled need and unresolved pain in the play than I had realised.

That is the answer to the few critics who originally thought *Art* bland. It always was easier to refute those who found it philistine, especially when the view was expressed as inane as it was by *The Guardian's* Richard Gott. Writing from the moral high ground he has long inhabited, he declared that not since "the palmy days of the Third Reich" had people had their prejudices so pandered to than by this "old-style fascist theatre". That wrongly assumed that Reza sides with reactionary Marc. It totally ignored a touching, healing ending. It also misidentified the play's subject.

That subject is not cultural fashion or the vagaries of the art trade but the nature and limitations of friendship. To what extent does caring for someone mean tolerating his taste, his opinions, his ego, his attempts to control you, his changing personality? To what degree must friendship involve evasion, compromise, humility, attempting to cover up emotional fissures when they show themselves? So deftly does Reza raise those and other issues that I am tempted to revise my view of her play. In October I called it a minor classic. Let's change that to classic comedy, period.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE

Mark Williams, David Haig and Anton Lesser as Yvan, Marc and Serge, supposed friends whose amity is unexpectedly tested by an abstract painting in Yasmina Reza's *Art*

A question of literary value

WHEN an aristocrat of literature has delivered his work, which opinions really matter? The ones given by the readers who don't want his novels any more; that of the agent who fired him; or that of a world indifferent to his plight — an inability to finish a five-year-old novel, and his poverty and isolation in a Co Donegal hideaway? Or will the judgment of his worth come from somewhere else?

Tom Connolly (Tom Hickey), the writer at the centre of Brian Friel's *Give Me Your Answer, Dot!* has his questions clear, but cannot decide where best to seek the answers. Ask Daisy, his wife, and you will get a sozzled rant about uncertainty. Ask Garrett, the popular novelist, and you will get the sly answers of a rival. Ask Bridget, the sedated daughter in the padded cell, and you'll get no answer at all.

On the sunny lawn at home.

Give Me Your
Answer, Dot!
Abbey, Dublin

Daisy (Catherine Byrne) eases her way into the afternoon with a few gins, and slyly interrogates David Knight (Darragh Kelly), a scavenger of literary archives, snuffing his way through Tom's papers. Forty years of work stretch across the stage — works in which the public no longer has any interest.

As ever Friel's stylish patterning of his material is intense. Chekhov crops up early as the guests. Daisy's parents (Aideen O'Kelly and David Kelly), along with Garrett (Des McAleer) and his wife (Frances Tomelty), gather for one last hurrah of an ebbing Irish literary aristocracy. The crucial resonance is with Eliot's tempters in the

Cathedral, as the good Knight offers Tom that which is not his to give: the benevolent view of posterity.

If the story seems a little specific, the production is a greater problem. With the very notable exceptions of O'Kelly and David Kelly, the cast were all acting dangerously below par. Byrne had difficulty with dialogue that required close timing. Tom Hickey's mannered performance, too, had grave problems.

Friel's decision to direct has a whiff of hubris about it. A number of verbal skirmishes needed to be far tighter, while visual aspects are undeveloped. Perhaps this is not a Friel to stand alongside *Faith Healer*, *Translations* or *Dancing at Lughnasa*, but

difficulty with dialogue that required close timing. Tom Hickey's mannered performance, too, had grave problems.

LUKE CLANCY

Romantic treatment of a brute

UNIVERSITY College Opera's latest exhumation fills yet another gap in our experience of nationalist operatic movements. *Drot og Morsk* (1878), described as a "song drama" by its composer, Peter Heise (1830-79), is the most significant Danish romantic opera, and proved well worth investigating.

The subject matter, based on fact, has a familiar ring. King Erik V was assassinated in 1286 by his Marshal, Stig Andersen, whose wife he had seduced. According to Heise's librettist, Christian Richard, he was in the habit of seducing more or less everything that moved, including the local charcoal-burner's daughter, Aase. Add to this his boasting about his exploits as an arsonist, and you come to the opera's main drawback: the protagonist is such a frightful

bounder that you can't wait for someone to stick a knife in him. The work is not rich in dramatic conflict.

Heise's musical language is a touch conservative for its day: Beethoven and Weber are obvious influences — the latter especially on the instrumentation — and the harmonies are cheerfully diatonic, taking little note of what Wagner had been up to in the meantime. There are good tunes, in particular for Aase, and one or two scenes that can't fail: the Marshal's public denunciation of the King in council, and the subsequent conspirators' chorus. A sense of short-windedness in Heise's easily conversational word-setting style — good ideas peter out before they need to — may be

due to the cutting and rearrangement made by the conductor, David Hammond, who also supplied the English translation. It's a pleasant

opera which one would be happy to catch on a weekend in Copenhagen, but not as trail-blazing as what was happening in Bohemia, Poland or Russia at that time.

Hammond conducted Monday's British premiere with proselytising zeal, and there was rude, undisciplined energy in Robert Chevara's production, with cast and chorus in bizarre pick-n-mix costumes.

The women get the best music and were the best singers: Helen Wold especially charming in Aase's song and Weberian prayer in the

last act, and Louise Cannon steadily rising to the dramatic soprano challenges of the Marshal's guilt-ridden wife. The lyric tenor Julian Jensen was mellifluous as the King's treacherous valet, but some should whisper to Mark Evans (taking the role of the Marshal) that not every note in an opera needs to be sung double fortissimo. The King himself, baritone-turned-tenor Jamie Hancock, sang with so erratic a sense of pitch as to have one guilty longing for the denouement.

There are repeat performances tonight and tomorrow for rarity-hunters, but if you want an opera about a Scandinavian monarch being murdered by his girlfriend's husband, *Um Bello in maschera* is on the whole a safer bet.

RODNEY MILNES

Haydn
restored

CONCERT
LPO/Norrington
Festival Hall

for a steady, sturdy *Vivace* opening movement, the first beat of its triple rhythm swinging into every bar. The famous ursine finale was, by contrast, feebly footed until the trumpets stepped up the already tightening harmonic tension, and a loud timpani roll gave its final triumphant growl.

Many a nudge and a wink accompanied the Symphony No 82 (*The Bear*).

Norrington showed us Haydn as bumbkin, removed from the misty borderland of rustic Austro-Hungary to the sophistication of Paris, and teasing both himself and his audience in the process. Connolly observed note lengths and accents made

graphs and sudden, thudding silences. Norrington's long, continuous phrasing and steady pulse of repeated notes maintained extraordinary tension in the long but fleet *Andante* before a *Menuet* in which many a muddy double-bass boot was to be glimpsed under the twirling of the upper strings.

Norrington's Haydn Festival is playing off not only against himself, but also against his great admirer, Benjamin Britten. Neil Jenkins replaced an indolent John Mark Ainsley to sing the *Nocturne*, Britten's continuous, trancelike sequence of sleep and poetry. Jenkins is a fine interpreter of Britten, and he gave a lucid, fine-boned performance, missing only that elusive sensuality which lurks behind this strange midsummer night's dream. Norrington possibly miscalculated the balance here: the strings spun an over-fragile thread of allusion, though the seven orchestral soloists — bassoon, harp, timpani, cor anglais, flute and clarinet — worked their own disturbing magic to constantly beguiling effect.

HILARY FINCH

On the road to a rage

RADIO

assesses the role of writing in that decade.

Andy Martin, the presenter, sensibly took the position that one did not influence a decade by writing a book during it.

The principal 1960s influences came from the previous decade, including the early work of Jack Kerouac and, of course, J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, the novel which first defined the word "teenager".

Saul Bellow and Camille Paglia were among the programme's interviewees. Much of the bunch this week was *The Sixties Paperback*. Writers (Monday), which attempted to

induced odd looks and defensive door-locking from fellow motorists as I listened to her in the car. She is one of those infuriating people who cannot define anything except in terms of its death.

According to Paglia, the 1960s brought the end of the novel as a significant instrument: "For me the last great moment in the novel was the moment of the Modernist novel — Joyce, Proust, Faulkner, Hemingway. After that I think the novel begins to die."

And why was that? "History became too vivid from the Kennedy assassination onwards — events in the real world overtook the novel." This is a classic child-of-the-1960s view: two World Wars could not kill off the novel but one presidential assassination could.

I shouted at the in-car entertainment module (as we children of the 1960s call it) and headed for the nearest bookshop.

PETER BARNARD

COMPETITION THE TIMES

WIN A £36,000 MERCEDES

and help to raise money for Comic Relief



To support the Red Nose Day campaign

McLaren International, and their close friends the Spice Girls, have linked up with The Times to offer you the chance to win a £36,000 Mercedes SLK. There are runners-up prizes of trips to Edinburgh on Virgin CrossCountry and flights to Paris with Air France. Over five previous Red Nose Days, Comic Relief has raised just over £112m to help projects in Africa and the UK.

HOTLINE 0891 335 599

0891 calls cost 50p per minute

HOW TO ENTER

Call our hotline, above, before midnight tomorrow with the answer to this question:

How much money has Comic Relief raised in its five previous Red Nose Days?

a) £100 million b) £112 million c) £150 million

All proceeds from the line will go to Comic Relief. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

CHANGING TIMES

CHOICE 1



Ian Holm stars as King Lear in a new staging for the National Theatre

VENUE: From tonight at the Cottesloe

CHOICE 2



Gemma Jones is the formidable heroine of *Mrs Klein*

VENUE: From tonight at the Palace, Watford

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP

McReady to get Nashville has a new star, in the shape of a former waitress from Florida

POP 2



Jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis brings *Blood On The Fields*, the best work of his career, to London

LONDON

LA BOHÈME: Returns only for National Magazine's one-off production of the Royal Ballet's one of the greatest Russian ballet classics choreographed by Petipa. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then on March 25, 26, 27, 31, April 1, 2, 4 and 10.

CELLO AND PIANO: Ralph Kirshbaum and Roger Vignoles offer a programme of sonatas by Schubert, Schumann and Hindemith. Wigmore Hall, Cleveland Hall, 23 Lee Road, SE3 (0181-463 0100). Sunday, 11.30am.

CLOUD NINE: Tom Cairn directs Caryl Churchill's first (1978) smash hit sexual politics and colonialism, set in the Victorian era and after, in repertoire. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-858 7516). Opens tonight, 7.30pm, 8pm.

KING LEAR: Ian Holm in the title role, holding a mirror to the world. The West at St. George's, Michael Bryant as the Fool in Richard Eyre's production. National (Coliseum), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2322). Previous: begin tonight, 7pm. Opens 27pm. Until March 27. Then in repertory.

BEETHOVEN IN BESIDE: John Eliot Gardiner conducts the Orchestra Revolutionnaire et Romantique in three concerts (tonight, Saturday, Sunday at 7.30pm) exploring the composer's

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian MacKay

symphony and large-scale choral works, including "Ode to Joy" and "The Four Seasons". The programme includes a workshop tomorrow (4.45pm) and a chamber concert on Sunday (4pm).

ELSEWHERE

EXHIBITION: The annual Edinburgh Festival begins today with a concert by the Dordogne and Savoie Stevenson Trio, with Menghini on violin, the ten-day festival of international art, music and culture. Curious Records and performances by Anapoli, the Robert Fish Band and Yann Tiersen. Venues include the Teviot Hall and Traverse Festival box office (0131-688 2019). Until March 30.

LIVERPOOL: An exhibition of more than 80 oil paintings and 15 drawings and watercolours by Sir Peter Alan Taddeo, whose works visitors of ancient Rome, Pompeii and Greece

made him one of Victorian England's most popular painters. Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street (0151-478 1989). Opens today. Mon-Sat 1-5pm; Sun, noon-5pm. Until June 1.

WATFORD: Gemma Jones plays Melaine Klein, the formidable heroine of Mrs Klein, Nicholas Wright's exciting and witty portrait of a famous analyst in a moment of crisis. Directed by Iain Brumfitt, daughter of Peter. Peacock, Cinnabar Road (01923 226671). Previous: begin tonight, 8pm. Opens March 25, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed (April 1, 2), 8pm; and Sat (March 29, April 12), 8pm. Until April 12.

WINDSOR: The annual Edinburgh Festival begins today with a concert by the Dordogne and Savoie Stevenson Trio, with Menghini on violin, the ten-day festival of international art, music and culture. Curious Records and performances by Anapoli, the Robert Fish Band and Yann Tiersen. Venues include the Teviot Hall and Traverse Festival box office (0131-688 2019). Until March 30.

WATFORD: Gemma Jones plays Melaine Klein, the formidable heroine of Mrs Klein, Nicholas Wright's exciting and witty portrait of a famous analyst in a moment of crisis. Directed by Iain Brumfitt, daughter of Peter. Peacock, Cinnabar Road (01923 226671). Previous: begin tonight, 8pm. Opens March 25, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed (April 1, 2), 8pm; and Sat (March 29, April 12), 8pm. Until April 12.

make him one of Victorian England's most popular painters. Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street (0151-478 1989). Opens today. Mon-Sat 1-5pm; Sun, noon-5pm. Until June 1.

WATFORD: Gemma Jones plays Melaine Klein, the formidable heroine of Mrs Klein, Nicholas Wright's exciting and witty portrait of a famous analyst in a moment of crisis. Directed by Iain Brumfitt, daughter of Peter. Peacock, Cinnabar Road (01923 226671). Previous: begin tonight, 8pm. Opens March 25, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed (April 1, 2), 8pm; and Sat (March 29, April 12), 8pm. Until April 12.

Stand by your plan

Howdy, miss. Lost your big hair and stetson?

Alan Jackson meets a cowgirl with attitude

None of the businessmen taking mobile phone calls in the West End hotel bar can know yet who Mindy McReady is, but she turns heads all the same. Although dressed down, she still conveys the impression that she might be.

In fact she is one of American country music's most acclaimed new stars. Last year's debut album *10,000 Angels* has now sold more than a million copies, climbing high in the US pop charts in the process. And thanks to the cheerfully post-feminist thrust of *Guts Do It All The Time*, its most talked-about track, she has helped to underline a new trend in a previously male-dominated genre.

At 21, the photogenic and charming McReady is by no means Nashville's youngest emergent star: 14-year-old LeAnn Rimes became the first country singer to win the Best New Artist award at last month's Grammies. But it is noteworthy that Rimes and McReady's propulsion to stardom (and that of fellow newcomer Deana Carter, whose debut LP *Did I Shake My Legs For This?* is a huge success) has occurred just as interest is waning in the previously unstoppable "hat acts" — stetson-sporting males such as Garth Brooks, Clint Black and George Strait.

Singing cowboys still represent big business in the C&W heartlands, but it was the surge of interest shown in them by urban consumers who influence the pop charts which made them across-the-board stars in the early 1990s. Now the interest would seem to have waned. "That's not surprising when there are so many alike," says McReady. "Nashville is seriously into cloning — an artist successful on one label and immediately every other company rushes to sign a carbon copy. The public wants inspiration, and how can you be inspired by some guy when you know there'll be another ten just like him along in a minute?"

Meanwhile, her hit single has great

appeal for that potentially wide audience (60 per cent of American C&W buyers are young women) looking for a stylish alternative to rhinestones, big hair and pointy-toed boots. Its video shows McReady bleary-eyed after a night out with the girls, confronting her boyfriend's double standards by telling him, "Get over it honey! Life's a two-way street / Or you won't be a man of mine ..." This lyric is greeted with whoops of glee from women congeering every time she performs it live.

Hardly groundbreaking, but it does signal progress within a genre group famous for standing by its man. "Traditionally, the image of ourselves we have portrayed through music has been so submissive," says McReady. "I don't advocate male-bating but I do demand to be treated equally, and I think most females feel that way. *Guts Do It All The Time* reminds me of the time I let myself be trapped in an abusive relationship. I let someone knock me around, all the while dreaming of being the type of woman portrayed in the song. Finally I found the courage to be her, and I hope that its popularity means that others will feel empowered to be her too."

Where do country performers acquire this talent for Opry-style self-revelation? Certainly not at the media training classes which McReady assures us, are now a part of every Nashville hopeful's grooming programme. "It's a one-to-one thing with a tutor and most labels put their new artists through it," she says. "But I hated it. And failed it. They want you to be so careful, so manufactured, ultimately so bland. What about putting across a little personality?"

So the former waitress from Fort Myers, Florida, takes it on the chin when the American tabloids ask how she felt at the age of 11 when her parents divorced. Or why her two younger brothers now live with her in Nashville, not with their mother. Or

No rhinestones for Mindy McReady, new face of country and western

why she is paying to put them through college.

"No, I don't feel it's turning my life into soap opera," she says. "If you're lucky enough to have a gift that brings you fame and the love of the public, it's your duty to do it forthright and honest in all that you say."

McReady says she feels sorry for Rimes, who has two albums in the US Top Ten at a time when her peers are midway through high school. "She has a God-given talent but she's missing out on her childhood. For different

reasons, so did I — I had the weight of the world on my shoulders at 14, worrying about my brothers and my Mum and running the house when all I wanted to do was twirl my cheerleader's baton or sit in my bedroom experimenting with make-up. LeAnn probably wants to do the same, but she has to worry about fights and itineraries and accounting. I feel bad that anyone so young should be exposed to so much stress, whatever the rewards."

• The album *10,000 Angels* is released by DNA Records

NEW RELEASES

SPACE JAM (U): Sports star Michael Jordan collides with characters from Looney Tunes cartoon. A juvenile treat; dir. Michael J. Panks. Cleopatra Pictures (0171-468 3223) Odeon: Marble Arch (0181-315 4218) West End (0171-322 2222) Ribby (0171-737 2121)

THE CLOUD (15): Urban sci-fi. Stephen Rea struggles to be his own man. Dial drama, with Richard Harris. Director: Gillies MacKinnon. Metro (0171-437 0767) Ribby (0171-737 2121)

THE CRUCIBLE (12): Weighs version of Arthur Miller's play about 17th-

THEATRE GUIDE

James Kingdon's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (♦) on release across the country

■ **McReady**

<div data-bbox="20

Jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis brings *Blood On The Fields*, the start of his career, to London

THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 21 1997



■ POP 3

California's Cake offer an appealing mix of the odd and the diverse on their latest album, *Fashion Nugget*...



■ POP 4

... but Lisa Stansfield, for all her seductive charm, merely treads water on her new album

THE TIMES POP ARTS



■ POP 5

They sound as if they come from somewhere hot, but Santa Cruz are actually the hottest thing in Bristol



■ POP 6

Hey, hey, we're the wrinklies: the reconstituted Monkees offer a dispiriting night at Wembley Arena

The new buzz on the street is ... Cake

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair unearths another American band in the Beck, Eels, kind of quirky and rather fab mould

CAKE

Fashion Nugget
(Capricorn/Mercury 532 867 E11.99)

HOT on the heels of Beck and the Eels, Cake is the latest act to offer a welcome alternative to "alternative" American rock. Rejecting the stifling conformity that has beset that misnamed genre since grunge fizzled out, the five-piece group from Sacramento have adopted a more open-ended and offbeat approach and been rewarded by seeing their second album, *Fashion Nugget*, continuing to hover just outside the American Top 50, six months after its release in that country.

Now it is our turn to savour the various ingredients which make Cake's musical recipe so appealingly different. While incorporating fashionable elements of hip hop and rap, à la the Red Hot Chili Peppers, they nevertheless apply a quaintly old-fashioned approach to their songwriting.

But their unique touch of genius is in integrating the sound of mariachi trumpeter Vince DiFiore. His flourishes lend a delightfully unexpected touch to numbers including the superb hit single, *The Distance*, and *Frank Sinatra*, where it sounds for a moment as if Herb Alpert has wandered into an Elvis Costello session.

Their choice of cover versions is similarly unpredictable, a forthright reappraisal of the old Gloria Gaynor anthem, *I Will Survive* and Willie Nelson's gently ironic *Sad Songs and Waltzes*. Meanwhile, an alert if somewhat warped sense of humour is threaded through the lyrics of their own numbers, ranging from the country-flavoured *She'll Come Back to Me* to the stream-of-consciousness funk of *Race Car Ya-Ya*.

Odd and diverse in both its influences and reach, *Fashion Nugget* is the kind of album you could ponder to the point of meaninglessness. Better simply to enjoy its cranky yet utterly modern charm for all it is worth.

Compact discs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

LISA STANSFIELD

Lisa Stansfield
(Arista/BMG 74321458512 E14.49)

STUNG, no doubt, by the comparatively poor sales of her lacklustre 1993 album, *So Natural*, and mindful of the subsequent rise of Brit-soul stars such as Gabrielle and Diana Carroll, Lisa Stansfield has taken great pains to ensure that her fourth album is up to scratch.

Her long-time partner Ian Devaney this time shares the production credits with Peter Mokran, whose previous experience with R Kelly, Michael Jackson, Toni Braxton and others ensures that the album is graced with an authentic-sounding American R&B gloss. A selection of tightly scripted love/relationship songs, including a cover of Barry White's *Never Never Gonna Give You Up* and an ultra-commercial Diana Warren song, *I Cried My Last Tear Last Night*, is carefully tailored to Stansfield's sultry vocals. And there is the lucky, last-minute bonus of *People Hold On (Bootleg Mix)*, a hit out of the blue for her at the start of the year. It is a seductive package that can hardly fail, but which offers nothing to broaden her range or to challenge the most obvious of expectations.

BEE GEES

Still Waters
(Polydor 537 302 E13.99)

THE magic of the Brit Awards was confirmed when the nation awoke last week to find two Bee Gees albums in the Top 10. *Still Waters*, which joins a greatest hits collection in the chart, is the latest offering from the Gibb brothers who, having been laughably unfashionable even at the height of their fame, are now impervious to the shifting sands of popular taste.

Still singing of fevered emotions and tortured imaginings in falsetto tones that range from a quivering bedside whisper to a noise resembling the alarmed bleating of sheep, they stamp their unmistakable mark on numbers ranging from the slick *I Surrender* to the saccharine *I Will*. The new meditation man lyrics are excruciating — "I'm in love with the child inside," they sing in *Obsessions* — but otherwise it is an album written and performed to the usual exacting, if hardly exciting, standards.



Cake — (from left) John McCrea, Todd Roper, Greg Brown, Vince DiFiore, Victor Damiani — the latest and very welcome alternative to "alternative" American rock

CHUCK PROPHET

Homemade Blood
(Cooking Vinyl COOK 114 E14.99)

WHILE new acts, such as Wilco, are rightly acclaimed as saviours of American roots music, it seems that Chuck Prophet, a no less traditional performer with similarly traditional instincts, remains forever burdened with the curse of bad timing.

Homemade Blood is the fourth album of a solo career that has

proceeded in fits and starts since before the dissolution of Prophet's former band, Green On Red, in 1991. A collection of lovingly crafted, rough-edged songs, steeped in an earthy cocktail of country, blues and Rolling Stones' rock'n'roll influences, it is a brilliant record of its kind that deserves far wider attention than its limited marketing budget and unfortunate title will enable it to receive.

Great tunes, such as the Dylan-esque title track, rub shoulders with soulful lyrics and adventurous but never overhanded guitar solos, as on the scruffy *Ooh Wee*, which canters to a mighty finale with the help of a strident riff borrowed from Jimi Hendrix's *Hey Joe*.

An album surrounded by no great expectations or hype, *Homemade Blood* is primed instead by pure spirit and plenty of old-fashioned heart.

Copyright CIN
TOP TEN ALBUMS

1 (2) Spice Girls (Virgin)
2 (5) Bee Gees (Polydor)
3 (1) Pop... (U2/Island)
4 (28) Nine Lives... (Aerosmith (Columbia))
5 (3) Everything Must Go... (Marin Street Preachers (Epic))
6 (4) Ocean Drive... (U2house Family (Wild Card))
7 (11) Tragic Kingdom... (No Doubt (Interscope))
8 (7) Very Best of... (Bee Gees (Polydor))
9 (6) B-Sides, Seaside & Freerides... (Ocean Colour Scene (MCA))
10 (12) K... (Kula Shaker (Columbia))

Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

Look what Santa's got you for Easter

If you're from Bristol, and your songs are influenced by ghosts, then why not call yourselves Santa Cruz?

You imagine it would be desolate, this place where Santa Cruz learnt to shiver, coil and break. On hearing them for the first time, and knowing nothing about them, you figure they live in a shack in Spit Junction, Australia, playing plaintive songs to uncomprehending locals in shabby bars. Or maybe they're from the wide, broiling Californian deserts, four friends huddled around a radio, picking up John Peel on a long-wave radio and drinking in crackly, static-ridden harmonies like water.

But then, this rendering emptiness could equally be down to living on the edge of a broken city, taking bus rides that take you past burnt-out shops and crumbling churches, neglected neighbourhoods and wasteland parks. The scary parts of Boston's high-rise parts of the West Coast where the Byrds' vocals still echo...

But no. All wrong. They're a skateboard shop assistant, a typesetter, a mental-health worker and a bank clerk from Bristol. They believe in being polite and being washed, being deep and being pop; and they're rigorously self-educated in Being Hot. But Playing It Cool.

Santa Cruz were five years in the planning; they knew the label and produced what they wanted before they wrote a note, and their record collection is the sum total of 20th-century pop genius — John Lee Hooker, My Bloody Valentine, Nick Drake, Sun Records' roster, the Beach Boys.

And, on top of all this, their debut single is the most self-assured declaration of intent since the week the Stone Roses a) did some

thing, and b) it was good. *Thirty Degrees Below* is the sound of someone holding on to their sanity by a thread, all breaking harmonies, stick-the-kitchen-sink-in chord changes and a desperate sense of claustrophobia.

"Well, the place in which we write and rehearse is rather isolated," Michele Schifface, the drummer, explains. "Scott Haigh-Jerrold, the lead singer's, mum, owns a pub on Spike Island: it's a pub on Spike Island."

It's a sweetly straddle the blaze of summer sun and the damp musk of evening. Each grasp at joy leaves Santa Cruz's hands bloodied and torn but, equally, every painful thought has the memory of happier times. *Forever* sounds like the Go-Betweens locked in a cage, being told of all the horror in the world by Tricky, whereas *Rocket Man* is an almost hippy ode to the joy of walking barefoot in summer, undercut by a guitar-line that squeals like one of John Squire's before dipping into doubt.

It's a mesmerising balancing act, redolent of Crowded House's greatest moments and facilitated by the razor-sharp ache of Haigh-Jerrold's voice. The fact that he could be good-looking for England won't harm them a bit either.

So how does a band this disparate and desperate get together? Did they all hook up at *Melancholius Anonymous*? Maybe messages in bottles that washed up at the feet of the right people? Or possibly a series of chance meetings in a local churchyard?

"No," Geoff Gorton (bass) says. "We were in a dodgy indie club in Bristol and I saw this lovely girl with glossy hair sitting on a barstool. As I was very drunk, I went over to introduce myself, and was rather shocked to find the glossy hair was attached to a fella, Scott. I was so surprised I asked him to join the band. It was happy coincidence."

Or rather, a happy-yet-knowing-that-all-happiness-is-transient-and-an-illusion coincidence.

• *Thirty Degrees Below* is released by MCA Records on Monday.



CAITLIN MORAN

patch of flat mud and grass in the middle of the Severn Estuary. Spike Island is the last place in Britain to carry out public executions — the executioner used to live in the basement of the pub. And there's a very odd vibe there. Sometimes, when it's still and quiet, you can hear someone moving around."

"Yeah, the last time I stayed there," Peter Sullivan, the guitarist, says. "I was in bed and I could feel these claw-like hands moving all over my legs, like, 'Whoever's there isn't evil, just a bit lost.'

Loss seems to be a big thread running through their album, to be called *Way Out*, due for release later in the year but already shaping up to be one of those playful-to-death summer albums. These uneasy melodies

CONCERTS: Band that never really was makes a comeback that isn't; change of formula is a hit

Last train to nowhere

The Monkees
Wembley Arena

54. Micky Dolenz, 52 and Peter Tork, 53, picked up their instruments and launched into *Last Train to Clarksville*.

It sounded surprisingly good, and for the first half of the show they played and sang entirely unaided, pointedly dispelling one of the most tenacious myths, that they never really mastered their instruments.

The innate vaudevillian art of *Alternative Title* raised a smile here and there, and a huge cheer went up when they played *I'm A Believer* which, along with *Daydream Believer*, was clearly the song most people had come to hear. But the set included too many unfamiliar numbers, both old and new.

Things started to go seriously awry when the session musicians were smuggled on and the individual members started doing their party pieces. Nesmith provided an achingly dull reading of his only solo hit, *Rita*, and Tork weighed in with a pub-rock

version of *Lucille*. Dolenz offered a numbingly dreadful rendition of the torch song *Since I Fell For You* before the diminutive Jones leapt in with a cabaret song-and-dance routine that made Ernie Wise look like Fred Astaire.

The mood of desperately forced frivolity escalated throughout the second half of the set, which was interrupted with clips from the new Monkees TV series, and it

became painfully apparent that gags and routines which might be carefree, ephemeral fun in the hands of a fresh-faced gang of youths quickly lapse into naff self-parody when the participants are clearly of an age to know better.

The perfunctory encore of *I'm Not Your Steppin' Stone* and *Pleasant Valley Sunday* partly redeemed the situation, but the real sadness was that, whatever the aesthetic considerations, the show as a whole had failed to entertain.

DAVID SINCLAIR

South rises again

Texas
Empire, W12

of its partners on the new album, *Black Eyed Boy*, lacked some of the muscle of the recorded version, but was still a topically Tame update of traditional soul stylings.

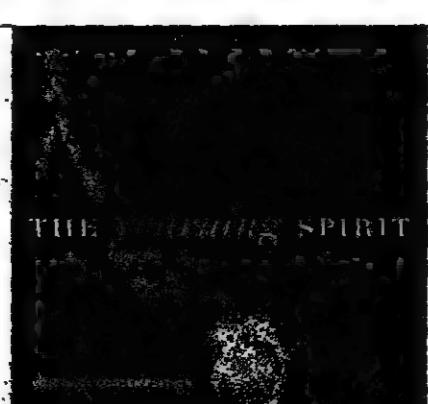
Spirited was sure-voiced throughout, but while the group's on-stage policy of more songs and less frippery is admirable, it can make for a broad-and-butter viewing experience, the only real variation coming when she played an encore, solo at the organ, of Al Green's *Tired of Being Alone*.

The comeback hit, delivered towards the end of an efficient but rarely inspiring London show, had new and original fans swaying and singing with its clever and cheeky appropriation of a hook from Marvin Gaye's *Sexual Healing*. One

new dimension in choral sound for times of quiet and contemplation

An album of exquisite choral music chosen from centuries of great spiritual music including the heart-stopping *Sperm in album* by Tallis and many other discoveries and gems.

A musical oasis of peace in a troubled world



CD/MC 454 993-2/4

AS ADVERTISED
ON CLASSIC FM

PAUL SEXTON

EDUCATION

What if your son does not shine?

Hugh Thompson on boys who fail to achieve at independent schools

There is nothing more exasperating than the child with academic ability and promise who decides to settle for mediocre A levels rather than going for the keys to the best university places.

Although no one argues that every teenage girl takes to A levels like a duck to water, boys seem to fall behind in the A-level race. Even selective independent schools, with all the motivational support and push at their disposal, report that between 5 and 10 per cent of their sixth form could and should be doing better.

Several reasons are put forward: immaturity, which leads to lack of focus; school being seen as irrelevant; keeping street cred by not trying and therefore having an excuse for failing.

Some boys with successful parents can feel inferior if they struggle academically. And it has been suggested that the modular system of doing A levels takes some of the brighter boys' eyes off the ball as they go in for the final months. "It is important in these cases that the young man owns the decision to get back into his studies," says Hugh Carson, the head of Malvern College. "Career counselling is often the key. If they can start to focus on what they want to do and what qualifications they need, they can start seeing the point of working.

"There are, of course, those who develop too late to settle down for their A levels, and many of those go on to achieve amazing things. Bowing to the power of reward and punishment is not the answer; there has to be taken on one side.

Surmount Neil Sheldon says: "Of the 20 or 30 out of a sixth form of 200 who we feel are in danger of underperforming, only two or three will seriously let themselves down in the end. They are usually disaffected with the school and therefore hard to reach. We target those we feel are slipping and at interview it is made very clear that they must continue to work hard and aim high.

"We appreciate that there are unprecedented distractions — social lives, sport, sex, part-time jobs — but we get the message across that, especially for the last six months, students must be blinder; they must concentrate totally on the exams."

Many entrepreneurs are too self-opinionated and individualistic to finish or benefit from school. Last year in a letter to *The Times*

Let the school do the nagging and threatening

the Headmaster of Ampleforth College, Leo Chamberlain, said: "An Abbot of Ampleforth was once asked what happened in later life to the denizens of the bottom form. He replied that they generally employed the gentry."

But what of the parents?

Stephen Roberts, the Headmaster of Felsted, says: "I think there should be a good guy/bad guy division of roles. Let the school do the nagging and threatening; home must always be a place they can turn to and get support. At sixth-form level, punishments such as taking away sport and social facilities are more effective than giving book tokens and house points. We make them realise that this is not a holiday camp. Close attention and counselling usually works, but there is always a hard core who will never see the light. Most of the problems are early on in the course when they are least mature."

Of course different schools have different selection criteria, traditions and ambitions and are therefore slightly different. Manchester Grammar School prides itself on its position in the premier division where As and Bs at A level are the norm. It is against this standard that underachievement is measured. As elsewhere, about 10 per cent of the boys in the sixth form will have to be taken on one side.

Labour is proposing to develop a Standards and Effectiveness Unit and database within the department to enable best practice from schools. Ofsted and LEAs to be spread quickly by using the Internet and other media. Those who gain insights from visiting schools or attending conferences will be able to make a direct input. Collecting and disseminating best practice will be central.

Technology can also ensure a two-way channel of communication with parents, pupils and students. The possibilities are enormous.

We will also draw in those from outside with the right skills and experience to help us to carry through our programme. Senior staff — as politically neutral civil servants — will be expected to speak at, and participate in, major conferences. They will be identifiable and identified with the work of the department.

Every civil servant should have the opportunity to contribute initiative

David Blunkett outlines his party's plans to shake up the Education Department

If we are to make a real difference in our education system, we must have a radical shift in policy and in the way that government operates. This means a shift in content and style so that we have an enabling approach which supports initiative from people on the ground.

We must look at how government departments operate, the services they provide and how they respond to the public. One of our first tasks if elected will be to transform the outlook, culture and ethos of government departments to ensure a clear focus on the real and immediate needs of the people they serve.

In the Department for Education and Employment, this will mean reviewing how effectively civil servants use their time and talents. This week we indicated that the department would have a minister of Cabinet rank reporting to the Secretary of State to put in place our key employment programmes. This shows the important status which the department will have in a Labour government.

Staff at all levels must be clear about the policies they are being asked to implement — but they must also be in a position to influence decision-making. We know that many civil servants joined the service because of their commitment to public service, and those who should be in direct contact with the public — in schools, colleges, training centres, jobcentres, business and commerce — must be able to report frankly on what is working and what is not.

Labour is proposing to develop a Standards and Effectiveness Unit and database within the department to enable best practice from schools. Ofsted and LEAs to be spread quickly by using the Internet and other media. Those who gain insights from visiting schools or attending conferences will be able to make a direct input. Collecting and disseminating best practice will be central.

Technology can also ensure a two-way channel of communication with parents, pupils and students. The possibilities are enormous.

We will also draw in those from outside with the right skills and experience to help us to carry through our programme. Senior staff — as politically neutral civil servants — will be expected to speak at, and participate in, major conferences. They will be identifiable and identified with the work of the department.

Every civil servant should have the opportunity to contribute initiative



PARENTS

"We must also look at ways of extending consultation effectively to those who use our education services"



TECHNOLOGY

"Technology can also ensure a two-way channel of communication with parents, pupils and students"



CONFERENCES

"I hope we can cut down on the plethora of professional conferences held each year"



CREATING JOBS

"In employment, it will not be government which creates jobs, but government which backs those who can create them"

should be acknowledged and rewarded, with civil servants encouraged to identify unnecessary bureaucracy. Anyone identifying savings by eliminating unnecessary tasks should be helped to reallocate their time and gain appropriate new skills. We must cut the avalanche of paper issued by the department and agencies every year. We want to reduce red tape for those carrying out policy.

The department should practise what it preaches. Investors in People should be the norm throughout, with training and updating of skills available in a sensible and planned way.

Communications from different directorates and agencies must be co-ordinated to avoid duplication and overload, and targeted to the appropriate audience. The 1995 efficiency scrutiny into the administrative burdens on schools was a good first step in this direction. I am keen to investigate how we can make greater use of new technology in this area — not just to send material out to schools, but to give them the opportunity to respond.

I hope we can cut down on the plethora of professional conferences held each year. I would like to see fewer, more successful forums for discussion — constructive working seminars rather than empty talking shops: the exchange of professional expertise and experience rather than the same old speakers reciting to the same old audiences. I will also review departmental procedures to cut down on the number of meetings internally.

Consultation must be genuine. We must move beyond the farcical consultation exercises that have been the hallmark of this Government: support for the flagship measures on extending selection and the unplanned expansion of schools has been around 3 per cent. Equally, we must also look at ways of extending consultation effectively to those who use our education services as well as those who deliver them. The constant change to the national curriculum — at a cost to the taxpayer of £744 million — before Sir Ron Dearing sorted it out is a lesson to us all. The extension of our nursery voucher scheme without waiting to evaluate the pilots has been followed by genuine concern from the select committee and playgroups about reduced parental choice. This refusal to listen to the people on the ground runs the risk of leading to unworkable policies.

It is part of the arrogance of a Government which, after 18 years, still does not understand what it works on behalf of the public and not itself. This is why we need an "enabling government" — putting the machinery of government behind those people on the ground who are taking responsibility for their own lives and initiating their own effective solutions.

In employment, it will not be government which creates jobs, but government which backs those who can create them. This is why we support partnerships with private enterprise, such as the Glasgow Wise group's intermediate labour market

approach to job creation and enterprise. The development of our personal job accounts — pilots offering the long-term unemployed useful work, education or support in starting a business — depends on breaking down barriers between government agencies and departments and directing resources to the needs of the individual.

Our proposals will demand a great deal of imagination from all those involved — and much change. The department has already been through enormous upheavals with the amalgamation of education and employment. It is our intention to continue the process of positive change — to enable civil servants to do their job better by being more directly connected with the world beyond Whitehall.

I am convinced that there will be a warm welcome from civil servants to a reappraisal of their role: facing outwards and relating directly to parents, students and teachers.

• The author is Shadow Education and Employment Secretary.

Stephen Gardiner on a pioneering school that encourages pupils to study architecture



Pupils at Brondlehow School plan their new playground in a discussion session

Children build for the future

educationally orientated group called ArchEd run by Rob Dark and Ian Horton, two architects who have been working with schoolchildren since 1992.

Why an appreciation of architecture has not been included in the curriculum alongside art has remained a mystery for a long time. Pictures of period buildings, for example, can help bring a history lesson to life.

Such is not ArchEd's aim, but that is not to say it won't happen in the future for older children. For now, as illustrated by the Brondlehow experiment, Mr Dark and Ms Winn had decided that the proposals were to be a real undertaking, not a theoretical

ArchEd visited once a week, mornings only, between November 8 and December 6 last year to show the children how an architect would approach

children's knowledge and understanding of architecture, to give them some idea of what goes into the making of their surroundings so that they say, children can learn how to enjoy and contribute to the field. To accomplish that is an achievement in itself and ArchEd is the first in the field to attempt it.

The architects say they have never worked with such young children before and were amazed by their imaginative responses.

This could, they believe, be because Ms Grove and Ms Winn had decided that the proposals were to be a real undertaking, not a theoretical

project. In this way it was a venture with a practical purpose, and had the special function of finding a way of separating activities in the playground (some wanted to play football, some played other games) without dividing it.

This is where imagination came in. The aim was both to improve the space and make it more exciting, an adventure playground, so to speak.

ArchEd visited once a week, mornings only, between November 8 and December 6 last year to show the children how an architect would approach

the problem, to introduce them to the design process, to the use of a scale as a measure, and to the presentation of the design with drawings, perspectives and models.

As a basis to work from, and to have a picture of the area involved, Mr Dark and Mr Horton produced a plan which they called a "bird's-eye view", showing the outline of the playground, the school and its boundaries.

There were photographs of special features which the children had to locate on the plan; and a "brief", the list of possible activities — anything from games to gardening, nature trails and mazes — that might be included. Anything, in fact, to stimulate the imagination.

The project worked on a series of levels. On one it generated the thrill of discovery. On another, there was the practical educational outcome via cross-fertilisation of subjects: measuring the buildings and trees height brings in maths; the study of types of trees by the shapes of their leaves evokes nature; observation of the characteristics and detail of nearby houses involves drawing and painting; and the story of the school site — the original school was bombed during the Second World War — is local history.

From being immersed in the excitement of beavering about among all this, the children gained the confidence to make the leap from collecting facts to applying them in design, drawings and models.

So far, the scheme has been funded from a government regeneration budget. What is needed now is a further grant to finish the job.

A s summer approaches, many parents will be receiving information from schools about children's activity holidays. Most schools organise some kind of adventurous activity, ranging from treks across the Himalayas to nature walks in the local park.

Schools stress the developmental aspects of these trips and most parents would concur. However, the risks were highlighted four years ago this week when four students died on what should have been a simple canoeing trip across Lyme Bay in Dorset. After the Lyme Bay disaster there was a public outcry.

Investigations revealed that instructors were barely qualified to take themselves on to the sea and that the alarm was raised far too late. Peter Kite, the centre's managing director, was found guilty of manslaughter and served a prison sentence.

The judge hearing the case commented: "Where parents and teachers send their children for activity holidays, the potential for injury or death is too obvious to be left for the inadequate vagaries of self-regulation."

David Jamieson, MP for the Plymouth constituency where the Lyme Bay victims lived, helped to lobby for a new licensing system. Eventually the Government brought in the Activity Centres (Young Persons Safety) Act, which allowed for the inspection and regulation of activity centres.

Tourism Quality Services in Cardiff won the contract to administer the inspection scheme and are currently pro-

cessing applications from the thousand or so centres that may need to be licensed.

Marcus Baillie is the director of the inspection authority, the Adventurous Activities Licensing Association (AALA). Mr Baillie is an experienced canoeist with wide experience of outdoor education, and his appointment reassured many within the industry who had been concerned about a too bureaucratic structure.

B ut some confusion remains. Not all activities are covered by the legislation, and many centres continue to operate without a licence. Trips abroad are not covered by the regulations with a view to setting up a voluntary scheme.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the Scout Association have been involved in the discussions, and John Welsh, the AALA spokesman, believes a voluntary scheme could be in operation before the end of the year.

In the meantime, four years after Lyme Bay, parents still do not have a foolproof method of checking the status of an activity holiday provider.

• Parents can check whether certain activities have been licensed by ringing the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority on 01222 753715.

The taste of adventure must not turn sour

Phil Revell on the measures taken since the Lyme Bay tragedy

cessing applications from the thousand or so centres that may need to be licensed.

Marcus Baillie is the director of the inspection authority, the Adventurous Activities Licensing Association (AALA). Mr Baillie is an experienced canoeist with wide experience of outdoor education, and his appointment reassured many within the industry who had been concerned about a too bureaucratic structure.

B ut some confusion remains. Not all activities are covered by the legislation, and many centres continue to operate without a licence. Trips abroad are not covered by the regulations with a view to setting up a voluntary scheme.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the Scout Association have been involved in the discussions, and John Welsh, the AALA spokesman, believes a voluntary scheme could be in operation before the end of the year.

In the meantime, four years after Lyme Bay, parents still do not have a foolproof method of checking the status of an activity holiday provider.

• Parents can check whether certain activities have been licensed by ringing the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority on 01222 753715.

POSTS

THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND EXAMINATIONS

New appointment implementing and monitoring education development policies and programmes

LONDON n32,000

ABOUT THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS ("the Institute")

The Institute is a registered charity and learned society of professional people concerned with the selection, education and training, and the provision of examinations leading to qualifications in arbitration, members of the Institute, or general training and experience in art as arbitrators, expert witnesses, adjudicators and conciliators, appointed to resolve commercial disputes by arbitration, both nationally and internationally; is recognised world-wide as a leader in the field of arbitration, training and examination of potential and practising arbitrators, expert witnesses and adjudicators and has a rapidly expanding international programme of education and training.

Has 8,000 members worldwide.

THE PERSONAL QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- A good general education to degree or equivalent level with specific legal qualifications or experience in the delivery of higher education at under graduate and post graduate level, preferably across cultures and national boundaries;
- Experience in the setting, marking and moderation of examinations and marking;
- High computer literacy;
- Knowledge of the law and, in particular of ADR, would be an asset but is not essential; relevant training will be made available to the successful candidate;
- A highly motivated leader;
- A good communicator, team player and an effective administrator;
- Strong written and oral presentation skills;
- Ability to deal effectively and confidently with people at a senior level from different professional and cultural backgrounds is essential.

THE JOB SPECIFICATION

Providing the expertise to enable the Institute's selection, education and training policy to be implemented efficiently and cost-effectively worldwide;

Please reply enclosing full CV, including current salary details and a daytime telephone number, to:

The Secretary General
The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
International Arbitration Centre
34 Angel Gate, London EC1V 2RS

Tel: 0171-837 4483 / Fax: 0171-837 4185



CHIGWELL SCHOOL

HMC/APS: 680 pupils aged 7 to 18
Full Co-education will be introduced from September 1997

Two posts in the field of:
Chaplain
Head of Religious Studies
Co-ordinator of PHSE
Counsellor

Required for September 1997 or January 1998

Candidates for one or any combination of these positions should write for further details to:

The Headmaster, Chigwell School,
Chigwell, Essex, IG7 6QE.

HAILEYBURY
APPOINTMENT OF BURSAR

The Council of Haileybury and Imperial Service College invites applications for the post of Bursar and Secretary to the Governors following the retirement of the present Bursar. The appointment will begin on 1 January 1998 or earlier by agreement.

Basic salary by negotiation - circa £45,000.

Contributory pension scheme, car allowance, the possibility of accommodation, school fees remission and other benefits.

Further particulars available from:

A de R Davis M.A.
Secretary to the Governors

Haileybury
Hertford, SG13 7NU

to whom applications should be sent not later than 21 April 1997.



HURSTPIERPONT COLLEGE

A School of the Woodard Corporation
HMC Co-educational, boarding and day School (7-18)

BURSAR

Required for August 1997

Applications are invited for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors

The closing date for applications is April 16th 1997.

Further particulars of the post and an application form are obtainable from:

The Clerk to the Governors
Hurstpierpoint College,
Hawesoe, West Sussex
BN6 9JS

Bedales School

Petersfield
Hampshire GU32 2DG

HEAD OF DUNHURST
(BEDALES JUNIOR SCHOOL)

Coeducational Boarding/Day 8-13 IAPS

Required for September 1997
or January 1998

Applications, together with CVs and names, addresses and telephone numbers of three referees, should be submitted by 21 April to Alison Willcocks, Head of Bedales, who will be happy to supply further details.

EASTER REVISION

MAKE THE GRADE
'A' LEVEL
EASTER
REVISION

Oxford Tutorial
College

12 King Edward
Street OX1 4HT
Tel: (01865) 793333
Fax: (01865) 793233

UNIVERSITY
APPOINTMENTSMaltman's Green
School

Gerrards Cross, Bucks

Head

The Governors of Maltman's Green seek a successor to Mrs Madeleine Evans, who will retire in Summer 1998. The post calls for a combination of teaching experience, management skills and educational vision.

Founded in 1918, Maltman's Green is a preparatory school for some 370 day girls aged from 3 to 12+. It is governed by an Educational Trust and the present Head is in membership of the IAPS. The original 17th century building, in 10 acres of grounds, has been complemented by excellent modern facilities to create an enviable educational environment.

Academic standards are high and girls progress to a range of prestigious senior schools. The school has a strong tradition of excellence in Art, Music and Sport.

For full details, please contact Jean Bryer at Gabbitas Educational Consultants, Carrington House, 128-130 Regent St, London W1R 8EE. Tel: 0171 734 0161 Fax: 0171 437 1764

GABBITAS

NASUWT

Applications are invited for the following post

ASSISTANT
GENERAL SECRETARY
(DESIGNATE)

The Assistant General Secretary (Designate) will assume responsibility for the overall management of the NASUWT administrative headquarters in Rednal, Birmingham. Salary: from 1st April, £48,054

The post is included in the NASUWT non-contributory pension scheme.

An application form, job description and person specification are available from:

The General Secretary
NASUWT

HillsCourt Education Centre
Rednal
Birmingham
B45 8RS

NASUWT is an Equal Opportunities Employer
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:
APRIL 11TH 1997

Rye St Antony School
Oxford

Roman Catholic Independent Boarding and Day
School for Girls (3-18)

Applications are invited for the post of
BURSAR AND CLERK TO
THE GOVERNORS

The successful candidate will have proven and appropriate personnel, administrative and financial management experience. The Governors wish to make an appointment for September 1997.

For further details of the post please write to:

The Headmistress, Rye St Antony School
Pulham's Lane, Headington Hill, Oxford OX4 0SY
Closing date for applications: Friday 11th April 1997

Public Relations

Study from home for a new
career or second income. A
12 week "Public Relations,
Publicity & Promotions"
Diploma Course.
Morris College of Journalism.
Price for a free Prospectus
0800 371 500

Travel Writers &
Photographers

France's "Travel Writers &
Photographers" Course.
Study from home. An eight
month Diploma Course. Full or
part-time career or a
profitable second income.
0800 371 500

LANGUAGE
COURSES

Starting each month, beginners to advanced,

4 weeks intensive course - 15 hours/week.

Learn French fast.

For a free brochure call: 0171 723 7471.

Aliance Francaise de Londres
1 Dorset Square, London NW1 6PL
Sponsored by the French Government
Registered charity no. 200202

STUDY LANGUAGES
IN EUROPE

Language courses for business
or pleasure, all ages - including
INTERACTIVE SPANISH IN CAN SEASIDE
You can help you find the course to suit
your needs, telephone:
01706 83399, USA
01706 83399, UK
Fax: 1-516-665-5590
Email: sgu_info@sgu.edu

EDUCATION

Take a close look at

St. George's University School of
Medicine. Here's what you'll find:
■ Multi-national faculty of over
500 educators
■ Clinical programme conducted
in affiliated hospitals in the
United States and the
United Kingdom
■ 85% pass rate for 1st-time
takers in June 1996
■ United States Medical
Licensing Exam, Part I
■ Safe, friendly environment
conducive to learning
■ Entire programme conducted
in English
■ Strong network of student
support services

If you like what you see here,
there's even more. Including our
two modern campuses: one on
St. Vincent, and our new \$25
million campus on Grenada.
For more information, contact:
Office of Admissions, Dept.
AUKS, St. George's University
School of Medicine c/o The North
American Correspondent: Medical
School Services, Ltd., One East
Main Street, Bay Shore, NY
11706-8399, USA.
Call: 1-516-665-5590
Fax: 1-516-665-5590
Email: sgu_info@sgu.edu
Include your address and phone number.

St. George's University
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Grenada, West Indies
Look for us on the Internet - <http://www.sgu.org/sgu.edu/wiv/>

EASTER REVISION

HELPLINE

The CIE Helpline provides free, objective and impartial advice on the
courses offered by its members, the accessible and popular
Swinburne College with the highest student retention
and the best results.

A choice of courses available:
A wide range of A-level courses
A wide range of AS-level courses
A wide range of Higher National courses
A choice of courses to help you prepare for the following year
and the CIE Helpline

01233 820797

COLLINGHAM
LONDON

LONDON
Tel: 0171-244 7414

EASTER
REVISION
COURSES

A Level and GCSE

OXFORD
Tel: 01865-728 280

COLLINGHAM
OXFORD

iEspaniol en Espanol!

your Spanish course for tomorrow...

■ Study in Salamanca, Barcelona, Granada and Madrid

■ 2 weeks to 9 months (all levels - all ages)

■ Variety of courses, including many specialisation subjects

■ Host family or Student Host accommodation available

■ A Level preparation course

Call today for a FREE info-pack

Telephone 0181 788 8081 (from 0181 788 8080)

e-mail: info@iespanol.com

des Gables UK, 204 Broomleigh Road, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2QH

RESEARCH POSTS

Cranfield
UNIVERSITY
BRITISH AEROSPACE

Research Fellow

from £14,806 to £22,333 p.a.
(depending on location)

2 year fixed-term contract

Two research fellows are
required to support the
project. The post will analyse

the existing design process,

develop and implement new
processes and evaluate the
effectiveness of these

implementations. The
appointed staff will have a
good first or upper
second degree in engineering or
management science and

a strong interest in
engineering management.

Relevant industrial
experience would be a
considerable advantage.

It may be possible to
register for appropriate
higher degrees.

Closing Date:
21 April 1997

An application form and
further details are available
from the Recruitment
Administrator, Personnel
Department, Luton
University, Park Square, Luton,
Bedfordshire, LU1 3JU

Tel: 01582 743376
(24-hour answering service)

For informal discussion,
please contact Dr P. Shing
(CIM Institute,
Cranfield University)
on 01582 754073 or
Professor David
Hamblin (Faculty of
Management,
University of Luton)
on 01582 689655

Closing Date: 18 April 1997

Further particulars and details of the application procedure may be requested from the Director
of Personnel, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX on 0151 794 2210
(24-hour answerphone) or via e-mail: jobs@liv.ac.uk

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 680 6800

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

FAX:
0171 782 7899

TRINITY SCHOOL

SHIRLEY PARK, CROYDON, CR9 7AT



- One of South London's top independent boys' schools
- 99% A level passrate, 60% A + B
- Outstanding modern facilities in landscaped parkland one mile from East Croydon station
- Extremely generous fee remission, scholarships, + GAPs
- Renowned Trinity Boys' Choir; excellent games, music, drama, CCF, Duke of Edinburgh Award

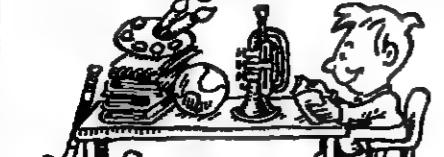
Contact the Registrar for the prospectus or a personal visit on: 0181 656 9541

Trinity School is part of the Whig Foundation, a registered charity which provides education for children

An evening at home...



An evening at Aldenham!



Established 1597. An independent boarding and day school. Magnificent grounds. High standards. Ring for details.

THE ADDED VALUE SCHOOL
ALDENHAM SCHOOL

(BOYS 11-18 GIRLS 16-18)
Elstree, Herts. WD6 3AJ Telephone: 01923 858123
A leading Charitable School in the field of Secondary Education



Bromesbury College for Boys

Enrolment for September 1997

Year 7 (Age 11 years)

Established by Yusuf Islam's renowned *Waqf al-Bayt* educational Trust, the College provides students with an excellent standard of education and personal development. In addition, the College offers a wide range of sporting and extra curricular activities including horse riding, swimming and martial arts. A highly dedicated and qualified team of teachers will instruct pupils in a comprehensive range of National Curriculum disciplines together with essential aspects of Arabic and Islamic Shari'a.

Applicants should possess a strong academic ability and commitment to learning. Enrolment forms to sit the entrance examination are available from:

Bromesbury College for Boys
8 Bromesbury Park, London NW6 7BT
Tel: 0181 830 4522 Fax: 0181 830 4523
e-mail: college@globinet.co.uk
Registration Charity No: 1098903

Looking for a School?

Which School? 1997

The 72nd edition of the comprehensive directory contains useful information on independent day and boarding, preparatory and secondary schools throughout the UK, together with helpful advice and editorials.

NOW IN COLOUR

Free quick-reference disk included

You can order your copy now

Price £9.95 plus postage

ISBN 1-869863-94-1

JOHN CATT EDUCATIONAL LTD
GREAT GLENHAM • SADDLEHAMS • SUFFOLK IP17 2DH
TELEPHONE: 01728 663666 FAX: 01728 663415



HARROW SCHOOL

EASTER REVISION
1997

A Level & GCSE

31 March - 5 April
7 April - 12 April

Residential and Non-residential

Boys & Girls

For further details contact:

The Registrar, Easter Revision Courses, Harrow School, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex HA1 3HP.

Telephone: 0181 422 2196

Fax: 0181 864 7180

E-mail: 100577.1526@compuserve.com

This establishment is a registered charity no. 310033

A-LEVELS
at CATS

CATS (Cambridge Arts & Sciences) is an independent day and residential sixth form college offering:

- 40 A-level subjects in any combination
- Unusual options like Film Studies
- A staff/student ratio of 1:3
- Managed independence between school and university.

CATS is BAC accredited and all applicants have gone on to Higher Education since 1992.

For further information please contact:

01223 314431

CATS, Round Church Street, Cambridge CB5 8AD



Bedford School

Every 6th Formers aged 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16 by examination and interview.

• Continuous curriculum through Preparatory and Upper schools.

• High academic standards:

95% pass rate at A level with 61.4% grades A-C, 57.6% pass rate at GCSEs with 31.9% A or A* grade and 84.9% grades A*-B.

• Excellent Sport, Art, Drama and Music

• A caring boarding environment with a newly built Junior Boarding House.

• Close relationship with Bedford High School for Girls and The Dame Alice Hervey School for Girls.

For prospectus and other information, contact Mrs Christine Ross, The Registrar's Secretary, Bedford School, Drury Avenue, Bedford, MK40 2TZ. Tel: 01234 380444 Fax: 01234 380509

Bedford School's objective is to provide high quality education for boys aged 7-18

Charity Number 204017

St Paul's Cathedral
Choir School

New Change, London EC4M 8AD
Tel: 071 238 8158 Fax: 071 238 8158
Day Boy's Prep. School and residential Choir School

Applications are invited for this famous boys' school (for 7-18 years old) besides St Paul's Cathedral in the City of London.

Places are available for non-residential DAY BOYS and CHOIRSTERS (who board and join St. Paul's Cathedral Choir).

Day boy candidates (of any faith) are invited for interview and a short test before entry in September (normally at 7+). The next voice trial for choristers (6- to 8 years old) will be on

SATURDAY 10 May 1997

For prospectus and viewing please contact the Headmaster, Mr Stephen Miles.

John Catt Educational Ltd

EDUCATION COURSES

EAGLE EYES REQUIRED

Would you like to practice as a freelance proofreader or editor earning an excellent income working from home? Then mark the errors in this advertisement and post it to Chapterhouse with your name, and a dress.

Well send you a free prospectus of our training services. Chapterhouse courses are respected internationally and our professional tutors give you their personal attention. We never pretend its easy, but we have a six-year record of establishing many successful freelancers through our co-responsibility training and seminars.

If you too buy a phone call will do.

Chapterhouse, 2 Southwark West, Easter E11 1JG.

Tel: 01392 499488, Fax: 01392 498888

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA
CORRESPONDENCE COURSES
IN COMPLIMENTARY THERAPY

Hypnotherapy Diploma £190

Stress Consultant Diploma £180

For free prospectus
please telephone 01202 399122

SCHOLARSHIPS

(Up to full fees, depending on parental income)



- Awards for boys at 13+
- Academic Excellence
- Art
- Design Technology

Scholarships will be held 5, 6 & 7 May 1997

Contact Dilys Wilson, the Registrar for further information.

BLOXHAM SCHOOL

Bloxham, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX15 4PE

Headmaster's Office Telephone: (01295) 720206

Fax: (01295) 721897

Bloxham School is a registered charity No. 204617 which exists to educate children

AFFORDABLE BOARDING!

STATE BOARDING
INFORMATION SERVICE

If you have considered a boarding school education for your child but dismissed the idea because of cost, here is the answer to your problem.

- STABIS schools do not charge for tuition
- Fees are for boarding only
- Fees range from £1100 to £1900 per term
- 39 schools throughout England and Wales
- Free Directory available from DfEE Publications Centre, PO Box 6927 London E3 3NZ

For further information on STABIS contact The Secretary, Ysgol Nant, Valley Road, Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd LL33 0ES Tel/Fax 01248 680 542

REED'S SCHOOL

(OVC 11-18 500 Pupils - Day & Boarding)

Andrew Reed Scholarships for Sixth Form Places at Reed's School

Sponsored jointly by the Royal Wanstead and Reed's Foundation

Available from September 1997

Candidates of both sexes who qualify for boarding bursaries, having lost the support of one or both parents, are invited to apply. Scholarships are awarded on academic merit and can be worth 100% fees (50% Scholarship plus up to 50% Bursary support).

For further details please apply, quoting *The Times* to Admissions Secretary, Reed's School, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 9PS Tel: 01932 659706

Reed's School exists to provide quality education for boys and girls

Business Career Skills

First class instruction and practical training within the uniquely supportive, friendly atmosphere of St. Aldates

- 9 month Executive Personal Assistant Diploma
- Options including Languages, Law, Marketing
- 9 month Executive Business Studies Diploma
- 9 month Media & Advertising PA Diploma
- 6 month course with Work Experience
- 3 month Career Foundation Course for Graduates

St. Aldates College, (94R) Rose Place, Oxford OX1 1SB Tel: (01865) 240963

THE PILGRIMS' SCHOOL
WINCHESTER

Boys' Preparatory School (IAPS) for Boarders, Weekly Boarders and Dayboys.

The School enjoys a national reputation for its academic performance and other achievements - notably music, sport & IT and is known for its cultural vitality, wide opportunities & friendly atmosphere.

Weekly boarding is an increasingly popular option, the structured environment which the School offers being particularly beneficial as public examinations approach.

6TH FORM ENTRY

Sixth Form of 260 boys.

1996 A Level Results: 53% Grade A, 72% Grade A & B

An unusually large Upper Sixth leaving this year will create several extra weekly boarding places in next year's Lower Sixth. We would welcome enquiries from academically able boys for entry to the Sixth Form.

For further details please contact:

The Admissions Secretary, Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 1DE

Telephone: 01235 531755 Fax: 01235 336449

Abingdon is a registered charity which exists solely to provide education

Boys' Preparatory School (IAPS) for Boarders, Weekly Boarders and Dayboys. The School has a strong academic record and there are exceptional facilities for music. Boys are prepared for the Common Entrance Examination and Scholarships to senior independent schools, with a high proportion going to Winchester College. The School is situated in beautiful buildings in the Cathedral Close, with adjacent playing fields in the grounds of Wolvesey Palace. For further information, please contact The Headmaster, The Pilgrims' School, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9LT. Telephone: 01962 854159.

The Pilgrims' School is a registered charity (No.307337) which exists to provide high quality education to boys aged 8 to 13.

EASTER REVISION

SCIENCE
AT LEVELS

Highly committed tutors and an emphasis on understanding through extensive question analysis, helps to build confidence and makes Duff Miller the first choice for Easter revision. Call 0171 225 0577 for details

Duff MILLER

PORTLAND PLACE SCHOOL

56-58 Portland Place

London W1N 3DG

Scholarships for 1997 entry

Independent mixed school 11-18 years

Tel 0171 307 8700

BUSINESS COURSES

SECRETARIAL

TRAVEL

HOTEL ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC RELATIONS & ADVERTISING

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

OXFORD AND COUNTY BUSINESS COLLEGE

RACING: ITALIAN JOCKEY PICKS UP WHERE HE LEFT OFF WITH ILLUMINATING DOUBLE ON TURF SEASON'S OPENING DAY AT DONCASTER

By JULIAN MUSCAT

THE alchemist in Frankie Dettori transformed an ordinary Doncaster card into something of an occasion yesterday. The Italian's magic rubbed off on his first two mounts, his followers revelling in a near 24-1 double as Dettori picked up where he left off.

Dettori's "awareness" gathered momentum well before the stalls snapped open to herald the start of Flat season on turf. On a windswept afternoon, his bronzed features announced a deal raising the Tote's awareness among racers. The pool betting chain responded by incorporating a little of Dettori's

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MITHAK (3.40 Doncaster)
Next best: Artful Dane (3.10 Doncaster)

native tongue into its sponsorship of the Brocklesby Stakes.

"Benvenuto", or welcome, bode the Tote — which may well be extending the greeting to its new chairman, who could be revealed today. Dettori, for his part, delivered his own welcome when landing the previous heat.

It needed no imagination to envisage him in the Back A Winner By Train Handicap. He was riding Miracle Kid, but the horse, trained by John Gosden, proved so superior that Dettori's talismanic qualities were not required. Miracle Kid's victory confirmed reports that John Gosden, who trains the colt, has



They're off for the opening race of the new Turf Flat season at Doncaster yesterday, won by the 13-2 chance Galapino. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

made an early start on the Newmarket gallops. The detail was rammed home an hour later, when Canyon Creek cut down the fancied Yeast in the Sporting Life Doncaster Mile.

Canyon Creek is an interesting individual. Knee damage restricted him to a solitary outing at Pontefract last season and Sheikh Mohammed's four-year-old was thrown to the wolves here. Yet he responded as only a good one can, travelling strongly before quicken-

ing clear under a considerate ride. His victory was all the more meritorious for his obvious discomfort on the prevailing fast surface.

"John [Gosden] has trained the horse very sympathetically," the Sheikh's racing manager, Anthony

Stroud, said. "He was an unsound horse last year and the plan was to easily scale greater peaks in the months ahead."

Stroud also testified that heavy advantage of easy ground — which rains in Dubai had temporarily closed Nad Al Sheba racetrack, Prospector out of the smart River Memories, Canyon Creek could

have him ready early to take

advantage of easy ground — which he did not have." A son of Mr

Duke Valentino best effort last year Bay 344 in 6-furlong race at Wetherby (40/1), 7th, 57. Stroud: "It's a bit of a blow in handicap at Redcar (1m, good to

soft). I'm sure he'll be back in time for next week's Dubai World Cup have been held

in their preparation. Singspiel

(the mount of Jerry Bailey), Flemington and Luso (Mick Kinane), will represent Sheikh Mohammed's British interests and the sheikh must be hoping a favourable weather forecast becomes reality in the next 48 hours.

"It is ironic," Stroud said. "We could do with some rain over here."

Years' eclipse by Canyon Creek did nothing to dampen optimism for his stablemate, Alamein, in the Lincoln Handicap tomorrow. Alamein heads Ladbrokes' list at 8-1, but the market move yesterday was for Tumbleweed Ridge, clipped to 10-1 from 14-1. Supporters of the four-year-old — reportedly back to his smart juvenile form — were themselves encouraged when Meehan landed the Brocklesby Stakes with Blueridge Dancer.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

up in their preparation. Singspiel (the mount of Jerry Bailey), Flemington and Luso (Mick Kinane), will represent Sheikh Mohammed's British interests and the sheikh must be hoping a favourable weather forecast becomes reality in the next 48 hours.

"It is ironic," Stroud said. "We could do with some rain over here."

Years' eclipse by Canyon Creek did nothing to dampen optimism for his stablemate, Alamein, in the Lincoln Handicap tomorrow. Alamein heads Ladbrokes' list at 8-1, but the market move yesterday was for Tumbleweed Ridge, clipped to 10-1 from 14-1. Supporters of the four-year-old — reportedly back to his smart juvenile form — were themselves encouraged when Meehan landed the Brocklesby Stakes with Blueridge Dancer.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

up in their preparation. Singspiel (the mount of Jerry Bailey), Flemington and Luso (Mick Kinane), will represent Sheikh Mohammed's British interests and the sheikh must be hoping a favourable weather forecast becomes reality in the next 48 hours.

"It is ironic," Stroud said. "We could do with some rain over here."

Years' eclipse by Canyon Creek did nothing to dampen optimism for his stablemate, Alamein, in the Lincoln Handicap tomorrow. Alamein heads Ladbrokes' list at 8-1, but the market move yesterday was for Tumbleweed Ridge, clipped to 10-1 from 14-1. Supporters of the four-year-old — reportedly back to his smart juvenile form — were themselves encouraged when Meehan landed the Brocklesby Stakes with Blueridge Dancer.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

up in their preparation. Singspiel (the mount of Jerry Bailey), Flemington and Luso (Mick Kinane), will represent Sheikh Mohammed's British interests and the sheikh must be hoping a favourable weather forecast becomes reality in the next 48 hours.

"It is ironic," Stroud said. "We could do with some rain over here."

Years' eclipse by Canyon Creek did nothing to dampen optimism for his stablemate, Alamein, in the Lincoln Handicap tomorrow. Alamein heads Ladbrokes' list at 8-1, but the market move yesterday was for Tumbleweed Ridge, clipped to 10-1 from 14-1. Supporters of the four-year-old — reportedly back to his smart juvenile form — were themselves encouraged when Meehan landed the Brocklesby Stakes with Blueridge Dancer.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the 2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Snee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. "There is little racecourse interest in [flat] Turf racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Snee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over

RUGBY UNION

England's chances bolstered by Catt

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S prospects for a successful defence of their Rugby World Cup sevens title took a timely turn for the better in Hong Kong yesterday when Mike Catt, the Bath stand-off half, reported fit after straining a groin in training earlier this week.

Four years ago Andrew Harriman led a comparatively unknown group of England players into three days of freezing weather in Edinburgh, who emerged as winners of the inaugural Melrose Cup competition. Now Harriman is manager of a team that has played in no seven competitions, enjoyed only three training runs together before departure for the Far East, finds itself in conditions as alien as Murrayfield's cold

and rain were to the Fijians and Samoans and which lost Lawrence Dallaglio, its captain, this week.

"Five of the team played in 1993, so it is just a case of bringing the other five into the fold quickly," Harriman said, although this time England, blessed with all-round pace, have nobody who possesses the raw speed that Harriman had himself when on the wing for Harlequins.

Yet England's prospects are brighter than those of the other home unions. Wales, despite the experience of Allan Bateman, have been wrecked by injury and Scotland's youngsters may find themselves outclassed, though in James Craig they do have a genuine finisher. Ireland, so

unlucky not to reach the inaugural final (they lost in the semi-final to Australia), have to survive difficult group games against South Africa — who are led by Joost van der Westhuizen — and Argentina.

Should England succeed where no northern-hemisphere team has done since the Barbarians in 1981 and win in Hong Kong, it will be a marvellous achievement. Far more likely, however, is success for Fiji or the well-motivated New Zealanders, despite the absence of Jonah Lomu, through illness. Christian Cullen, through injury and various leading players contracted to their Super 12 teams.

England open against Canada and Zimbabwe today in a 24-team tournament expected to produce a turnover in excess of £6 million, despite complaints over the absence of top players from the leading countries. In that respect, England have not let the tournament down, but the clash with the Super 12 series has removed such players as George Gregan and Matthew Burke from the scene.

Not, however, the irrepressible David Campese, for whom this will be a last fling in Australia's colours; nor the aptly-named Eric Rush, who leads New Zealand into action.

Waisale Serevi, the little genius at stand-off half, returns yet again with Fiji.

In the week that China received membership of the International Rugby Football Board, Hong Kong field a team which, for the first time, includes a Chinese player in Chan Kip-Ping.

Campese's recovery came too late to prevent Will Greenwood from joining the England squad as cover, which has caused the postponement of Leicester's league game against Gloucester tomorrow.

FIRST ROUND POOL: A: Canada, Eng-land, Zimbabwe, Fiji; B: New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa; C: Japan, Hong Kong, France, Portugal; D: Hong Kong, Portugal, France, South Korea, United States; E: Cook Islands, Morocco, Spain; F: Argentina, Ireland, South Africa; G: Australia, Wales, Western Samoa

John Fisher savour comprehensive win

JOHN FISHER, from Surrey, flew the flag for comprehensive-school rugby union yesterday beating Durham 28-21 in the final of the Open tournament at the Rosslyn Park schools sevens (a Correspondent writes).

Coached by Mike Davies, the former London Welsh flanker, John Fisher were the dark horses of the competition and have not progressed beyond the last 16 before this year. Durham, the North of England sevens champions, were also appearing in the final for the first time but with Jonathan Golightly, last season's England Under-16 stand-off half, and Hall Charlton, the north of England Under-18 scrum half, they started as favourites.

However, it was John Fisher who drew first blood when Carrelle Dixon showed his pace to score. They went further ahead through Shearman, the scrum half, before Dixon again showed the Durham defence a clean pair of heels to extend the lead.

EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION



£40,000 of prizes to be won

Enter a team today for the Brazilian Grand Prix

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED IN MELBOURNE

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix with in the first 20 positions on the grid); Pole J Villeneuve 30 points; 2nd H-H Frenzen 25; 3rd M Schumacher 24; 4th D Coulthard 23; 5th E Irvine 22; 6th M Hakkinen 21; 7th J Herbert 20; 8th J Alesi 19; 9th O Panis 18; 10th G Berger 17; 11th R Barrichello 16; 12th R Schumacher 15; 13th N Larini 14; 14th G Fisichella 13; 15th U Katayama 12; 16th S Nakano 11; 17th J Trulli 10; 18th M Salo 9; 19th J Magnussen 8; 20th D Hill 7. **Finishing points** (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st D Coulthard 80 points; 2nd M Schumacher 50; 3rd M Hakkinen 40; 4th G Berger 30; 5th O Panis 28; 6th N Larini 28; 7th S Nakano 27; 8th H-H Frenzen 26; 9th J Trulli 25; 10th P Dinz 24. (Only 10 finished). **Lap points** (one point for each lap completed): D Coulthard 58 points; M Schumacher 55; M Hakkinen 55; G Berger 55; O Panis 55; N Larini 55; S Nakano 55; H-H Frenzen 55; J Trulli 55; P Dinz 54; R Barrichello 49; M Salo 42; J Magnussen 36; J Alesi 34; U Katayama 32; G Fisichella 14; J Verstappen 2; R Schumacher 1. **Improvement** from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved position): P Dinz 36 points; S Nakano 27; N Larini 21; G Berger 18; O Panis 12; M Hakkinen 8; D Coulthard 9; M Schumacher 3. **Fastest lap time** of grand prix: H-H Frenzen 10 points. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. **Elimination** during the race (10 points deducted): J Villeneuve -10; E Irvine -10; J Alesi -10; R Barrichello -10; H-H Frenzen -10; J Herbert -10; M Salo -10; Verstappen -10; U Katayama -10; F Schumacher -10; G Fisichella -10; J Magnussen -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): D Hill -10 points. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

CONSTRUCTORS Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): McLaren 30 points; Ferrari 25; Benetton 23; Prost 22; Sauber 21; Williams 19; Minardi 18; Arrows 17. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. **Elimination** of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Williams -20 points; Jordan -20; Tyrrell -20; Stewart -20; Ferrari -10; Benetton -10; Sauber -10; Minardi -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): Arrows -10 points. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

THE PRIZES

JACKPOT
The team manager heading our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard after the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26, will win £25,000. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up.

INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS
The manager of the team which scores the most points in the Brazilian Grand Prix will win a trip for two to British Grand Prix on July 13.



TRANSFERS

If you've already entered a team you can change up to four selections before the Brazilian GP by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday March 27. Your new team must comprise three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three selections you make will be deemed to be your prediction for the Brazilian GP bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE
Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the 24-hour checkline 0891 884 648 (Republic of Ireland 0044 990 100 348) and tapping in their 10-digit PIN number. The line currently carries all positions after the Australian Grand Prix and will be updated again on Wednesday April 2 after the Brazilian GP.

The first results in our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One competition, the points for the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, appear below. And there is still plenty of time to enter a team for the Brazilian Grand Prix — the first of six races which carry up to 600 bonus points for the team managers who can correctly predict any of the first three drivers to cross the finishing line. The top prize of £25,000, in association with the Marlboro World Championship Team, will go to the manager of the team which heads our leaderboard after the final race of the season, the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26. There are also runner-up prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 to be won.

To enter choose six racing drivers

each of the four groups (6 drivers) by noon on Thursday, March 27, for the Grand Prix in Brazil. The first 600 bonus points. And, you can now nominate your team manager. Check your position on our leader board. J Bell of Kentmere, Lancashire, is the current leader, having scored 816 points after the last race at Jerez, Spain. S Saenger, Jersey, has the second best record, with 800 points. PlayStation and Formula 1 are the sponsors.

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

Routes in bold type after the names represent the Fantasy Formula One scores achieved at the Australian Grand Prix.

DRIVERS

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C		GROUP D	
D-H Frenzen	3	102 M Hakkinen	128	140 D Pantano	117	10 G Fisichella	102 S Nakano
M Schumacher	105	68 D Coulthard	190	144 J Verstappen	8	20 S Nakano	22 M Hakkinen
J Villeneuve	20	69 R Barrichello	55	151 U Katayama	34	21 N Larini	21 M Salo
D-E Irvine	42	101 H-H Frenzen	108	152 P Dinz	114	22 J Hill	22 M Salo
J Alesi	43	11 J Herbert	10	17 R Rosset	0	23 J Magnussen	23 M Salo
G Berger	123	12 M Salo	41	18 R Schumacher	6	24 V Sospic	24 M Salo

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001

+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls). For inquiries call 01582 702 720, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls). For inquiries call 01582 702 720, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

TO ENTER BY PHONE

Call our entry hotline on 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). Calls last approximately seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone (most telephones with * and # keys are Touch-tone).

Follow the instructions on the entry line and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grand prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name, together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number (please note, you need to speak these details). You will receive a 10-digit PIN number as confirmation of your entry. Please keep a record of this with your team details.

You can enter a team at any time until noon on Thursday, March 27, to qualify for the start of the Brazilian Grand Prix.

BY POST/FAX

Complete the form, with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £2.50 payable to Fantasy Formula One, and post it to: The Times Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Or fax it on 01582 452106 (+44 1582 452106 outside the UK).

The closing date for receipt of this form to qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix is first post Tuesday, March 25, 1997, and noon on that day for faxed entries.

THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Groups A and B Drivers	1st	2nd	3rd
Groups C and D Constructors	4th	5th	6th
Postcode	Daytime Tel		
Credit Card Payment	Card number:		
Expiry date	Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name on card	Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from that above		
Signature	Signature		
Date			



Puskas gallops to new milestone

Brian Glanville salutes one of the world's greatest players, who will be 70 next month

his heir to the throne, Eusebio. "I didn't give it to anyone," he insisted.

He has just published a new book, *Puskas on Puskas* (Robin Books, £17.95), in which he speaks of learning football in the streets of Budapest and, indeed, he has remained the eternal Budapest urchin. If one has a special memory of him, it is not of any of those marvellous goals, not even the one he scored in Amsterdam when he ran half the length of the field on to Di Stefano's pass. It is of a night later in Santiago.

Chile had finished third in the World Cup and Puskas had played for Spain.

The streets thronged with the

celebrations of Chile fans. There,

in a doorway, munched mon-

key nuts the urchin grin on

his face was ... Puskas...

He returned to Wembley in May 1971 as manager of Panathinaikos, of Greece, who had reached the European Cup final, but lost 2-0 to Ajax, and later he coached in Vancouver. He showed us that he can still juggle the ball. Left-

footed.

In the other match, Heybridge Swifts, of the Icis League, the conquerors of Kidderminster Harriers in the previous round, turn their attention to Woking. The tie at Scratley Road has been made all ticket, with a £300 limit, and Heybridge have borrowed 40 stewards from Colchester United.

UniBond pennant embellishes last eight

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
By WALTER GAMMIE

THE biggest representation in the FA Umbro Trophy quarter-finals tomorrow comes not from the Vauxhall Conference but from the UniBond League, which has three clubs (Ashton United, Bishop Auckland and Colwyn Bay) in action, as against only two (Stevenage Borough and Woking) from the competition at the top of the Non-League pyramid.

Bishop Auckland's place in the quarter-finals was confirmed only after the FA dismissed an appeal by Altrincham to have Bishop Auckland's 1-0 win in the third round overturned. Altrincham said that their defeat was caused by the crowd trouble among visiting supporters that brought a 24-minute delay to the match at Moss Lane, Bishop Auckland's home tie against Gloucester City, of the Dr Martens League, is further shadowed by the resignation of Steve Newcombe, the club chairman, citing apathy with in the club and its supporters.

Ashton United are the most unlikely quarter-finalists, playing their football in the UniBond first division but finding inspiration under the management of John Coleman, formerly a prolific goalscorer with Morecambe. They travel to Dagenham and Redbridge, who were relegated from the Conference to the Icis League last season.

Such is their cup record this season that it is perhaps no surprise that Colwyn Bay, who travel to Stevenage Borough, should have survived so far. They reached the first round of the FA Cup and have also qualified for the semi-finals of the UniBond League Cup.

In the other match, Heybridge Swifts, of the Icis League, the conquerors of Kidderminster Harriers in the previous round, turn their attention to Woking. The tie at Scratley Road has been made all ticket, with a £300 limit, and Heybridge have borrowed 40 stewards from Colchester United.

CRICKET

Pigott put in charge of Sussex's rebuilding

BY PAT GIBSON

TONY PIGOTT, the former Sussex fast bowler who triggered the revolution that led to the committee being driven out by the sheer force of its members' feelings, was given his reward yesterday. He is to be director of cricket and acting chief executive under a completely new management structure.

It is far more than Pigott had envisaged when he launched his campaign to try to change the way the club was run only three weeks ago and far more than he even dreamt about when he was dismissed as a player at the end of the 1993 season.

Not surprisingly, he looked bewildered by the pace of events as he drove away from the Oval after confirming his resignation as the Surrey second team coach, the job that the county had kept open for him while he involved himself in the affairs of his former club for the simple reason that he cared.

What Pigott did not know when he first set about collecting the 58 members' signatures that he needed to force a special meeting, at which he hoped to oust the committee, was that two more powerful figures, Robin Marlar, a former captain and the most trenchant of cricket correspondents, and Jim May, regional corporate director of the Royal Bank of Scotland, were plotting their own coup.

Once the combined weight of Marlar's opinions, May's expertise and Pigott's enthusiasm was brought to bear at a passionate annual meeting in the Grand Hotel, Brighton, it produced a tide of opinion that swept away the old guard.

Within an hour, Marlar, 66, had been installed as chairman — "only for a year," he said, "because I'm not too pleased" — and yesterday he began to put the new structure in place with the playing philosophy "keep it simple, give good people responsibility."

Australia's ebullient wicketkeeper reveals some of his appealing characteristics to Jack Bannister

Pride, pride and even more pride glows from Ian Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper, as he talks about the part he is playing in what is rapidly becoming a high-quality side.

The Queenslander made his first-class debut in 1986-87, and his Test debut arrived after only six Sheffield Shield matches. More remarkable still is his tally of Test and Shield matches since. "I have played in 87 Tests, but still only 33 Shield games," he said.

Asked about the Australian superstition that 87 is the Devil's number, he laughed. "The Port Elizabeth Test was my 87th, and the Wicket Test was Steve Waugh's 87th. Didn't do us much harm, did it? Steve got 160 and I hit the winning six."

His decisive boundary reflected the ease of mind with which he approached the situation as Jason Gillespie joined him at the wicket with the Australia score having dipped from 258 for five to 205 for eight, still five runs short of the victory target. "I had no worries at all," he said. "I know he [Gillespie] can play straight and I would have taken any run on offer, but that six eased all the pain."

"It was special to me because we've lost the other three tight finishes I've played in — against South Africa by five runs, against Pakistan by one wicket and by one run against the West Indies. This one made up for them all."

Criticised for his excessive appeals when he started in Test cricket, Healy's morality about the modern trend of shouting for everything is firmly and with that familiar pride.

"I actually appeal less now than when I started," he said. "It's a matter of personal confidence, because I'm not afraid to tell the bowler that the ball was missing the stumps. When I started, Terry Alderman would come and stand at slip after bowling his over, and he would rocket me if I hadn't joined in."

Does he get upset when he knows that a batsman is out, and the batsman knows he is forward to it?

"I've got a very big job on my hands but I believe I can do it. It is a question of everybody getting together. Pulling in the same direction and moving Sussex forward. I am confident that we can do that."

Healy proud to keep his rivals at bay



Stand up and be counted: Healy's commitment to Australia's cause is unquenchable

out, but gets away with it! "No. He might get a few mouthfuls but it is the umpire we've got the beef with. I don't believe anyone should walk for anything so I can take what comes, for and against."

He believes the Australian

approach has changed in the past ten years. "I reckon we are now better equipped with aggression and confidence than when I started, and now we have a good side with great spirit."

The return of Shane Warne has no doubt contributed to

well as a brilliant bowler in only a couple of years. It was a big finger operation that he had but his consistency is back, although he gets more impatient now if a wicket doesn't come.

"Not many people realise that in 1993 he bowled more balls in a Test calendar year than anyone in history. He was bowling 40 and 50 overs in England and taking four for 70 by building up pressure on the batsmen. I reckon he soon spotted he couldn't do that for ever, so he doesn't bowl so much and therefore wants his wickets more quickly."

Healy still has good hands, but he blames problems with his contact lenses for the persistent bruising they have suffered since the recent series against the West Indies. "I had some eye irritation, and never found out for a few weeks that I had two chipped lenses."

The bruising is difficult to shake off taking two bowlers

"I don't believe anyone should walk for anything so I can take what comes"

of the pace of Glenn McGrath and Gillespie, who is marginally quicker."

He speaks proudly of his maiden Test hundred at Old Trafford in 1993. "Steve Waugh told me when I was 20 that it would be my day and gave me a lot of the strike, and everything went my way."

His Test record — 299 victims — tells a remarkable tale of achievement, but he is hungry for more. "I'm ahead of everyone except Rod Marsh for strike-rate," he said. "Jeff Dujon and Alan Knott were around the 270 mark of 81 and 95 Tests."

"I couldn't believe I only copped one at St George's [Port Elizabeth] on that pitch. But if the 300th will come, And I want to become the first wicketkeeper to play in 100 Tests."

Talk to him about the vice-captaincy, and that glow of pride fills his open countenance. "It's a great honour and a privilege and I love it," he said.

Pride, pride and even more pride.

CENTURION Park, the home ground of Northern Transvaal, hosts its second Test match today, the third and final game in the series between South Africa and Australia which the touring team lead 2-0 thanks to the six hit by Ian Healy in Port Elizabeth on Monday.

A win by two wickets is not quite the narrowest possible margin, but the teams were drained, nevertheless, by 3½ days of wildly fluctuating cricket. Now, four days later, they have to start all over again. As the series has also been decided, the players could be forgiven if motivation is lacking. But there are places and pride to play for. Not all of this victorious Australian party are certain to be picked for the coming Ashes tour of England, including the openers, Mark Taylor and Matthew Hayden.

Taylor has received criticism from the media because of his poor form with the bat — his last 18 innings have produced only 307 runs. But he commands the respect and even affection of his players, and his country's authorities know what a magnificent job he has done since he took over as captain from Allan Border.

The smart money says that, even if he fails again with the bat, he will come to England.

South Africa have been rocked by the double beating they have suffered, but take some solace from the view that Australia are the best in the world.

With Shaun Pollock out of the match today and doubts about the ability of Brian McMillan to bowl because of a bruised left heel, Brett Schultz, the fast bowler, returns.

Australia have injury worries about Taylor, Steve Waugh, Jason Gillespie and Glenn McGrath, but the first three are expected to play.

South African pride has taken a battering, and whether it can recover against this talented Australian side is one of several aspects of interest in the game — dead series or not.

AUSTRALIA (from): M Taylor (captain), M Hayden, M Elliott, M Waugh, S Waugh, B Stewart, M Gilchrist, P Pollock, S Warne, J McGrath, P Adams, J Dujon, A Clark, G Kristen, A Bucher, B McMillan, D Cullinan, H Coetzee (captain), A Donald, B Schultz, P Adams, H Gibbs, P Symcox.

SPORTS LETTERS

Time for a European rugby championship

From Mr N. J. D. Baptiste
Sir, While the England rugby union squad can obviously draw encouragement for the future from this season's results, the players will no doubt realise that only the French team provided them with opposition of the quality they will encounter from the southern hemisphere teams between now and the end of the next World Cup.

Gerald Davies (March 17) rightly pointed out that a fault in England's forward play is a constant tendency to ruck and maul instead of maintaining the momentum of the attack by keeping the ball in the hand and going forward or letting the backs have it quickly while the opposition is still in disarray.

He might well have added that the current fashion in the home countries for the backs to line flat in attack, in the

style of rugby league, and take the ball almost standing still also creates such a lack of momentum that almost the only way of breaching the opposing line is by dummy runs or miss-moves. The French backs, by contrast, run onto their passes at speed in the traditional way and, as they showed all season, are very dangerous whenever they get the ball as a result.

Now that the internal political problems of English rugby look capable of solution reasonably quickly, it is surely time for the respective unions in the five nations countries to start promoting the game properly in view of the well-financed competition for young players from professional soccer, rugby league and American football.

Yours faithfully,
N. J. D. BAPTISTE,
23 Gladway Road,
Putney, SW15.

Word of caution

From Mr Michael Madden

Sir, Much has been said and written about the vigorous, not to say reckless, challenge on Craig Chalmers by Christophe Lamaison in the France v. Scotland game last Saturday, to the extent that the Scottish Rugby Union has felt it necessary to cite the French player.

Not a word seems to have been uttered about the incident in the Wales v. England match when Gareth Thomas slid feet first into Jon Sleightholme in an attempt to prevent a try, catching the English wing's head with a knee and causing him to leave the field injured.

The Welsh wing should at least have been cautioned for foul play and, as Sleightholme had already been forced into touch at the corner, penalty awarded to England 15 metres in from touch five metres from the Welsh goaline.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MADDEN
(Training and Development Officer, Sussex Society of Rugby Football Union Referees),
4 Park Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

Against the tide

From Mr Andrew Heywood

Sir, In modern rugby, which is constantly changing its rules to create a faster, more open game, why are international matches brought to a standstill while a player builds a sandcastle on the pitch?

I refer of course to Jonathan

Davies's preparations for place kicks last Saturday against England in Cardiff. If players are not prepared to use the plastic tees provided, then they should not be allowed to kick.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW HEYWOOD,
5 Maple Grove,
Ealing, W5.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211.
They should include a daytime telephone number.

Goalkeepers undo myth

From Mr Ian Kinloch

Sir, One of the enduring myths of football was that England had the best goalkeepers in the world. The overseas competition might be able to boast of outfield players such as Puskas, Pelé or Platini, but when it came to goalkeeping, Banks, Shilton and Clemence, reared in a footballing culture which did not mollycoddle goalkeepers, stood supreme.

The next steps in this new professional era could be for each country play each other on both a home and away basis using both Saturdays and Sundays for internationals if necessary.

Simultaneously a second division should be established for the minor rugby-playing countries such as Spain, Germany, Holland, Russia and Poland. Yours faithfully,
N. J. D. BAPTISTE,
23 Gladway Road,
Putney, SW15.

stayed there until 1972 when the Parc des Princes was rebuilt. But their new venue was still the Parc des Princes — just as the recently rebuilt Twickenham is still Twickenham.

I rather think, and hope, that the second rebuilding of Cardiff Arms Park in my lifetime will not alter the name by which that hallowed corner of Cardiff is known. It will always be the Arms Park, just as the "Parc des Princes" has survived since at least 1906.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. FROST,
9 Pagoda Avenue,
Richmond, Surrey.

for place kicks last Saturday against England in Cardiff. If players are not prepared to use the plastic tees provided, then they should not be allowed to kick.

Yours faithfully,
C. K. SIMPSON,
128 Old Town Lane,
Pelsall,
West Midlands.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The slam hand in this Refresher occurred in a Hubert Phillips match (the national mixed teams championship).

Dealer South Game All Aggregate scoring

	♦A Q 9 2	♦A K B 6 3	♦K J 8 4	♦7 6
♦J 10 8 7 4	♦Q J 10 9 7 4	♦7 2	♦10 7 5 2	♦A Q 9 8 5 3
♦7 4	♦K 6	♦V 8	♦A Q 8 8 3	♦K J 10 8 2
♦1 D	Pass	1 H	Pass	
♦2 C	Pass	2 S	Pass	
♦3 C	Pass	3 C	Pass	
♦4 NT	All Pass			

Contract: Six Diamonds. Lead: queen of hearts

I was playing with Sally Brock. My Two Spades was fourth-suit forcing, asking Sally to describe her hand further. Her Three Clubs showed she had at least five clubs, and therefore at least five diamonds. At that point I had enough playing strength to bid Six Diamonds, but to bid Six Diamonds, I jumped to Four Diamonds; that showed slam interest with a good diamond

dummy and, intending to cash four major-suit winners before embarking on a cross-ruff, cashed the king of hearts. East and declarer both discarded spades. Sally now played a spade to the king and a trump. When West showed out she could no longer make her contract — try it if you like but there is nothing that works.

Sally was quick to point out her error. Once she has made three major-suit winners she knows she can make nine more on a complete cross-ruff, because she knows West has the heart length and East the clubs (note his foolish double of Five Clubs), so neither of them will be able to overruff.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CHERIMOYA
a. Wassailing
b. A finial
c. A Peruvian fruit

CHITTARONE
a. A pig's intestines
b. Rigmarole
c. A lute-like instrument

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Members' maestro

I have mentioned before in this column the extraordinary exploits of Marmaduke Wyll MP. Without a doubt, Wyll was the strongest player ever to sit in the House of Commons. Representing Richmond in Yorkshire for many years, he still found the time to develop his chess strengths to remarkable levels.

Stylistically, Wyll was a disciple of Howard Staunton. He liked Ruy Lopez, or flank, developments of his bishop, often chose to defend with the Sicilian against White's king pawn opening and had a fine strategic awareness of the power of a mobile pawn centre.

Wyll's main achievement was to take second prize at the first ever international tournament held at London, in 1851, to coincide with the Great Exhibition. In so doing he outdistanced established masters of the day such as Staunton and Williams. Wyll succeeded only to Adolf Anderssen in the final. Since Anderssen was very much the unofficial world champion of his day on Wyll's part. Even though he lost the match against Anderssen in the final, Wyll scored a couple of elegant victories. The following is a good example.

White: Adolf Anderssen
Black: Marmaduke Wyll
London 1851
Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5

<tbl_r cells="2" ix="1" maxcspan="

GOLF

Baker plays joker in wild-card selection debate

FROM MEL WEBB IN GRAN CANARIA

AS AN exercise in perching steadfastly on the fence it was a classic. Peter Baker, once the Ryder Cup hero, decided yesterday that there were very good reasons to change the rules on Ryder Cup selection. The only thing was, he did not think it was right to change the rules. Confused? Join the club.

The personable Baker, who won three points in a losing cause in the 1993 match at The Belfry, had a 67 yesterday, six under par, to finish the first round of the Turespagna Masters a shot off the lead, alongside four other players. He then embarked on his theories about how many wild-card selections Seve Ballesteros, the Ryder Cup captain, should have for this year's match.

"I think three picks [not two] would be satisfactory, it would definitely be helpful," he said. "We all want to have the best team and we all want to keep the cup." So far, so good, and everything would have been perfectly clear had he stopped there.

No such luck, for Baker had more to say. "The trouble is, in any sport, it's very difficult to

change the rules when you're halfway through the game. I can't think of any other sport it could happen in."

He even went further. "Actually, I think it would be better to have four picks," he said. This was becoming complicated. "And I think we should play for places from January to September; then we would be sure of having the in-form players in the team. If guys can't give up six months to try to qualify for the team, you have to wonder what they want to get in."

So which way would Baker be voting when he received the ballot form that is being sent

FIRST ROUND

EARLY LEADING SCORES (GB & Ireland unless stated): 66: B Davis, 67: P Baker, M Hellberg (Swe), J Pernell (Swe), J Coopers (Eng), P Gosselin (Can), D Tordoff (Eng), P Arribalzaga (Spa), S Hinchliffe, A Reid, R Gosselin (SA), J Lomax, J-M Cortizas (Spa), P Gosselin (Can), M-A Jimenez (Spa), D Lee, M-A Jimenez (Spa), S Hinchliffe, D Westermann (Swe), S Allen (Aus), D Smith, R Lee, D Cook (Aus), D Gifford, J Payne, J Campbell (NZL), D Bompard (Spa), D Carter, J M Chedzoy (Spa), A Cole (Eng), B Timings (Eng), P Valero (Spa), I Garcia (Spa), E Lopez (Spa), A Lopez (Spa), J Lopez (Spa), J de Velez (Fr), 71: D Chirico (Swe), D Hospital (Spa), R Russell, A Sanchis, A Coller, M Rodriguez (Spa), D Bompard (Spa), D Carter (Spa), M-A Martin (Spa), A Forcada (Swe), G Evans, C O'Connor Jr, F Ces (Spa), A Tait.

to European members of the PGA European Tour to give them the chance to vote on the issue? "I honestly don't know," he said, leaving nobody with the impression that he had made up his mind. Was he being indecisive? "I'm not sure." End of conversation.

Baker had been a good deal more positive on the golf course. He included three 15-foot putts in a round of seven birdies and only one dropped shot. That came at the 7th, his 16th, and was the only occasion when one of five poor drives betrayed him.

Baker is 35th in the Ryder Cup points list at present, but has his eyes firmly set on a place in the team to play the United States at Valderrama. If he stays put he is unlikely to be picked, even if Ballesteros is allowed to select all 12 players, so he has to earn his way in. If he votes for three picks, it would be just his luck if he finished tenth in the list.

Adam Hunter, level with Baker, José Rivero, José Coopers and Mats Hallberg, but a shot behind Brian Davis, putted brilliantly to birdie the first five holes, including one from 45 feet and two from 20 feet. Another birdie at the 7th took him to the turn in 30, a career best.

He had had trouble with his driver all the way round, and discovered why he had been a little crooked off the tee when his head dropped off on the 18th — the club's, that is, not the one that sits on his shoulders. He was last seen seeking a tube of Araldite.

José María Olazábal had a wildly inconsistent 70. He started at the 10th and reached the 18th one under par with two bogeys and a birdie, then played eight holes without a par — a sequence that went birdie, birdie, birdie, bogey, birdie, birdie, double bogey, birdie. There is more than one way to finish three under par, and Olazábal went the scenic route.

He was still bemused by it all when he moored away from the recorder's tent. "I just don't feel comfortable over the ball," he said. "I need to be more steady." He could say that again.



Palmer chips to the green yesterday during his first competitive round after surgery

Nicholas off to the healthiest of starts

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

She started with a four at the 10th, a par-five of 330 yards, and followed that with a two at the 165-yard 11th, to be two shots behind Robin Walton, the early leader.

Walton, another who played the second nine first, has missed four cuts in her past five outings, but went out in 33, four under par. A redhead with green eyes, she was born in Boise, Idaho, but perhaps she owes the change in her luck in St Patrick's week to her Irish colouring.

Joanne Morley, the rookie Englishwoman from Cheshire, has experienced highs and lows since joining the US LPGA Tour, finishing fifth in her first tournament but missing the cut twice, too. Yester-

day, looking relaxed and composed in a shirt of airforce blue, she sank a testing four-foot putt for her par at the 1st and holed from three feet for a birdie two at the 2nd.

Judging her distance well, Morley, who won her first tournament in Europe last season, had another birdie chance at the long 4th, but left her put short, dead on line. She then missed the green by about two inches at the 5th, a treacherous par-three of 130 yards, over water. A delicate chip shaved the hole and a par-saving putt of two feet was dispensed without alarms.

That was a more difficult test than it might sound, for Mary Beth Zimmerman, one of Morley's playing partners,

had just missed from three feet, tamping down some of fending bit of grass afterwards in an attempt to disguise the fact that her stroke had been mediocre and lacking in conviction.

Zimmerman, who started with a double-bogey six after being plugged in a bunker, has the look of one who expects the worst and has not been disappointed. A photographer snapping the group said that it was rumoured that she had not smiled for three years and, even after a good shot she looks like someone who has sworn allegiance to a sect that has taken a vow of misery. She has won four times — including this event in 1986 — but

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan reaches last four

FROM PHIL YATES IN CO KILDARE

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, who pinpoints his involvement in the invitation Benson and Hedges Irish Masters as a high priority assignment, became the first player through to the semi-finals of the event at Goffs here yesterday.

O'Sullivan, 21, who is attempting to capture his third title of the season, after prevailing at the Asian Classic and German Open, advanced with a 6-4 victory over John Higgins after a high quality encounter.

With strong family connections in the Cork area, O'Sullivan, also 21, is extremely popular in these parts and he even toyed with the idea of playing for Ireland in the World Cup four months ago before eventually electing to represent England.

"I always get a really warm

welcome here and it is half the battle when the crowd are on your side," O'Sullivan said after a match that turned out to be a microcosm of his recent form — unstoppable at times, wholly ineffective at others.

Laying the foundation for success, O'Sullivan swiftly and stylishly established a 4-1 lead with breaks of 42, 40, 101, 121 and 69 while Higgins edged by him at the corresponding stage of the world championship last year, struggling from the outset.

Yet, as he showed when beating Nigel Bond 6-5 in the previous round on Tuesday, O'Sullivan is susceptible to spells in which he can do little right. In the next three frames, he aggregated only five points as Higgins levelled at 4-4.

Higgins, the winner of the

BOWLS

Hankin leads calm England to victory

TO THE bitter disappointment of the home supporters, England won the women's home international series for the third year running in Perth yesterday, when they exhibited greater composure under pressure than the more excitable Scots, and won the deciding encounter, 127-108 (David Rhys Jones writes).

Doreen Hankin, from Egham, led the English charge piling up the shots against Falkirk's Roberta Hutchinson on one end rink.

Despite the quality of his potential opposition, O'Sullivan was in confident mood. "I get frustrated with myself at times, but I always know that, if I do hit top form, I'll win the event," he said. "I am not worried about anyone but myself."

Sharon Rickman, Di Gray and Julie Thomas all played their parts, as Hankin returned a 30-14 scorecard.

Thornaby's Norma Shaw, who has won the English indoor singles title seven times, stopped her team to a 24-15 win on the other end rink, and was responsible for

a vital count of six towards the end, which put paid to hopes of a late Scottish recovery.

Beryl Alderson skipped her rink to a 22-12 win over Jeanette Conran and, although the other three English rinks lost, they kept their defeat within bounds.

The Scotland selectors, who had been criticised for leaving out some of their leading players, had been hoping that a victory on home soil would vindicate them, but, at the end of the day, they missed the flair and experience that former world indoor singles champions such as Joyce Lindores and Jan Woolley could have supplied.

Earlier, a depleted Wales side that had failed to trouble England, and Scotland beat Ireland on four rinks and by 125 shots to 94.

ROWING

Leander take the leading role

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

STEVE REDGRAVE and Matthew Pinsent will be in the Leander first crew that will defend its title in the 71st Head of the River on Saturday. Their crew-mates will include Bobby Thacker and James Cracknell, Britain's double scullers in the Olympic Games last year, and Ben Hunt-Davis and Richard Hamilton from the Atlanta eight. The steersman will be Garry Herbert, the gold medal coxswain for the Searle brothers at the Barcelona Games, who also steered the British eight in Atlanta.

Leander, leading off the 420 crews, will be chased away by London University, who won the Kingston Head last week and have Rupert Obholzer, a bronze medal-winner in the coxed four in Atlanta, on board. Molesley, starting

third, will be without the Searle brothers, who teamed up with Obholzer in Atlanta. Jonny is having a break and Greg is concentrating on sculling. The Molesley crew have been reshuffled and have gathered pace since their outing at the Reading Head.

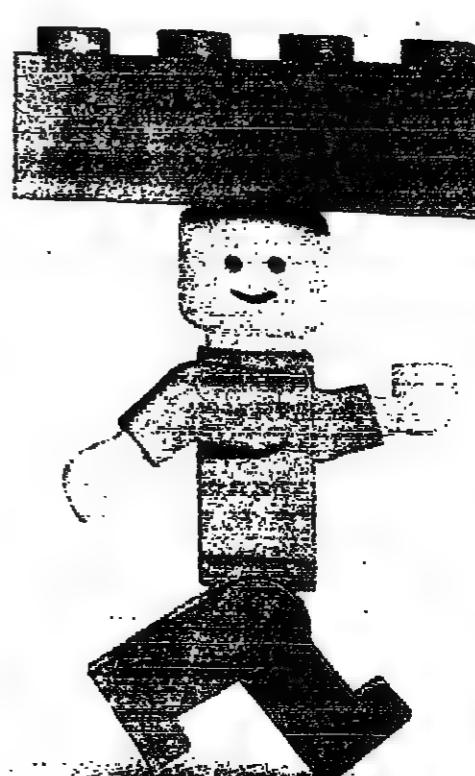
Hunt-Davis will be rushing to Henley after the Head as he is also the coach to the Oxford women's Boat Race crew, who are trying to break a run of Cambridge success that stretches back to 1992. He has overseen a low-profile build-up while Cambridge have, as usual, competed regularly in open events. The Cambridge crew includes their president, Sarah Winckless, who has six-and-a-half Blues to her credit in various sports.

There was talk of buying the Henley course for the

"LEGOLAND. OPENS ON MARCH 21ST. I'M OFF TO GET MY HAIR DONE!"

Bookings and Information 0990 04 04 04.

LEGOLAND
WINDSOR



ns
ich
rish

Slick Seville leaves US on starting blocks

Athletics in the United States is in a mess although, unlike in Britain, the mess is covered with a golden quilt. Its finances are parlous, its top executive is leaving, it has been losing sponsors and the number of meetings is falling. If this sounds like the latest report on the state of affairs at the British Athletic Federation (BAF) it is no different at USA Track and Field (USATF).

The obvious contrast is the gold-medal count from the past Olympic Games and world championships combined: US 25, Britain 1. But how much longer before the American quilt changes colour? The decision here yesterday

day by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to award the 1999 world championships to Seville, and not to Stamford, did nothing to protect it.

Seville will be the seventh world championships and still the most successful track-and-field nation on earth has yet to host them. "This will be the focal point for the revitalisation of American track and field," Nick Petrides, of the Stamford bid, said yesterday, before the verdict. Afterwards he reflected that the lack of "aggressive leadership" had been significant in Stamford's failure to secure the financial guarantees that Seville had put forward.

TENNIS

Henman's rise wins award from his peers

FROM ALIX RAMBAY IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

IT IS the calm before the storm — literally as it happens. With the distinct threat of rain on the way, the Lipton Championships eased into some semblance of life yesterday as the first round, devoid of any seeds, hit the courts. The main contenders, including Tim Henman, were still recovering from the annual Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) awards jamboree the night before, where the best of the best were honoured by their own.

For Henman, it was an eventful evening, winning the most improved player of the year award, as voted by the other players on the ATP Tour. After the efforts of last year, in which he took his ranking from No 90 to No 29 in the world and made more than a few headlines along the way, he won the award ahead of Alex O'Brien, of the United States, and Felix Mantilla, from Spain.

Henman was in good company — former winners of the award include Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Andre Agassi. Sampras collected the award for the player of the year for the fourth time in succession. Following in such exalted footsteps, it leaves Henman with much to live up to. It was the first time any British player had ever been mentioned in dispatches at the annual ceremony.

The equivalent award presented by the Women's Tennis Association for the most improved female player was won hands down by Martina Hingis. With one grand-slam title already in the bag and waiting, not necessarily patiently, in the wings to take over the No 1 ranking in ten days' time, there was really no contest.

If Hingis is ready to take on Steffi Graf's mantle at the top

of the heap, however, she has yet to snatch the title of player of the year from the German. Like Sampras, Graf took that honour for the fourth year running. She was also a little startled to discover she had been voted the most exciting player of the year, by tennis supporters, claiming she had always thought she was about as exciting as Todd Martin. The results of the voting may not have been much of a surprise, but the jokes were a new departure.

After such a night of success, it would appear that British tennis is ready to stand up and be noticed at last, but just when all appears to be well with the world, the Davis Cup looms large on the horizon.

In theory, Britain is one match away from a chance to qualify for the world group, but with Henman still to see if he can recapture the form he showed in January — and whether he has recovered from an elbow injury — and Greg Rusedski struggling with a wrist injury, suddenly the tie with Zimbabwe, at Crystal Palace in a fortnight's time, looks more daunting. Since he was forced to pull out of the San José final against Sampras last month, Rusedski has only managed to complete two matches, pulling out of the St Petersburg tournament in the top division within three days ago.

Meanwhile, Byron Black, who will lead the Zimbabwe attack next month, eased into the second round here with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Andrea Gaudenzi, who helped Italy to a semi-final appointment with France in the Davis Cup last year. Suddenly, the plan of David Lloyd, the Britain coach, to put Britain back in the top division within three years is not looking so straightforward after all.

David Powell on a crisis that put world championships out of American reach

The logical next question might be why, if US athletics was unable to build from the platform of two Olympic Games in the past 12 years, might it have done so from one world championships? Petrides has the answer. "That is the reason Ollan Cassell lost the vote," Petrides said, referring to the decision of the USATF board in December not to renew his contract as executive director.

During Cassell's 31 years in office, US athletics has failed spectacularly to market itself, and under new leadership, will hope to succeed.

Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, only made things worse. "I see more beach volleyball on television than I do track meets," Petrides said. Athletics is not among the top 20 sports on American television and Cassell must shoulder the blame. As one insider said: "Cassell's departure should free USATF like East German sports after the fall of the Berlin Wall." Stamford is likely now to challenge London as host for the 2001 world championships and, under new leadership, will hope to succeed.

Cassell is understood to have rejected close to \$500,000 (about £312,000) to leave before the vote to oust him, but efforts are being redoubled to pay him off before his contract is up next March.

A forecast budget deficit for USATF this year of \$2 million has led to cutbacks and the recent world indoor championships in Paris underlined deeper troubles. Such is media interest that Mary Slaney did not merit a story in the *Los Angeles Times* for her silver medal yet she is 38, from southern California and made world headlines in LA for her tangle of legs with Zola Budd at the 1984 Olympics. Such is the decline in track scholar-

ships and university teams that there is no sign of the emergence of a young sprinter worthy of borrowing Michael Johnson's blocks. No athlete from the US reached the 60 men's men's final in Paris. This from a country that has dominated world sprinting. The earning potential of American football, baseball and basketball has left athletes like the garage beneath the high-rise apartments.

The deterioration in US athletics is expected to show in the medal count in Seville. An \$8 million guarantee from the Andalucian authorities showed that what Spain lacks in medal-winners, it makes up for in political and commercial leadership.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Warrington youngsters have chance to impress

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WARRINGTON are gambling heavily on youth for their Stones Super League match at home to London Broncos tonight, with the inclusion of two newcomers, aged 16 and 17. The decision follows a clear-out of ten players, including three internationals, in response to their feeble display away to Bradford in their opening match last Friday.

Gloucestershire's management met Russell over two days before reaching a stalemate last night. Philip Augustus, the cricket secretary, said: "Jack wanted certain conditions. These included a management role for three years and to be captain for three years."

"We were happy with the management condition but our constitution says that we can only appoint a captain for one season at a time. We told Jack but he wanted all the conditions met, which we could not do." Now Alleyne, 28, an all-rounder, has his chance to get Gloucestershire back on track after a miserly start.

Draw for seeds

Rugby union: Fears that England, Scotland and Ireland would have to engage in play-offs to decide their Rugby World Cup (RWC) seedings in 1999 have been allayed. The RWC organisers revealed yesterday they had accepted a request by the three home unions that the seedings should be decided by a draw, which will take place in July. This will prevent the need for the teams to meet each other in addition to their five nations games next season.

Women to fore

Golf: Europcar, which lost the rights to screen the European men's golf tour this season, has signed a four-year deal to cover the women's circuit. The 1996 and 2000 Solheim Cup matches are included in the contract and Terry Coates, chairman and chief executive of the American Express-sponsored tour, said that joining forces with Europcar would "develop an exciting partnership".

Baulked

Billiards: Mike Russell, the world No 1 and world champion, sustained his first defeat for 14 months yesterday. Russell from Peterborough, was beaten 4-3 by Nalin Patel, of India, in the quarter-finals of the Gold Flake Indian Open in Madras. His last reverse came at the hands of Rondon Chapman, in the quarter-finals of the 1995 world championship in Bombay.

Back in action

Rugby union: The former captain, Philippe Saint-André, returns for the newly-crowned five nations' champions France. In a much-changed team to play Italy in Grenoble tomorrow, FRANCE: J. Soudany, S. Cugat, Y. Delaigue, P. Bonduy, P. Saint-André, O. Auguera, J. P. Laffargue, J. P. Tissot, M. Pernat, M. Darmous, F. Tournier, S. Costes, H. Monin, O. Merle, P. Benetton, F. Peloux (captain).



Ormond, aiming to reclaim his British team place, shows fine balance as he races to the national slalom title

Absence helps Ormond's challenge

FROM SIMON WILDE
IN TIGNES

JAMES ORMOND, who was dropped from the British ski team last year for under-achieving, won the slalom title at the British national championships here yesterday by giving up skiing for three months and going to Australia. The break, everyone now agrees, did him the world of good and he returned to competition in North America more focused. He began to train with the Andorran team — his family is based in France — and set himself to qualify for the world championships in Sestriere last month.

That he duly did and, with the British coaches helping

though Alain Baxter is close, Britain's best skiers have traditionally been downhiller so it is important to show that we can also be good technically."

Ormond, 23, responded to his unexpected de-selection by giving up skiing for three months and going to Australia. The break, everyone now agrees, did him the world of good and he returned to competition in North America more focused. He began to train with the Andorran team — his family is based in France — and set himself to qualify for the world championships in Sestriere last month.

That he duly did and, with the British coaches helping

him to prepare, he finished 25th in the slalom. He rejoined the Andorran and came to Tignes with the express purpose of regaining his place in the team. "My aim is to ski for Britain in the Olympics," he said.

With a large foreign contingent also taking part in the races, Ormond had to settle for fifth place overall. Baxter was going well in the first leg yesterday when he straddled gate near the finish and was disqualified.

Ormond leads the combined standings after finishing sixth in the downhill on Tuesday, his first downhill of the season. That race was won by Andrew Freshwater, who

finished only ninth-fastest of the Britons yesterday but is confident of overtaking Ormond in the giant slalom and super giant.

Emma Carrick-Anderson won the women's slalom with ease, confirming her reputation as technically the best of the women. Having done so well in the world championships though, she was disappointed not to beat the best of the non-British entries. Celine Dole, of France, was faster by 0.1sec. Sophie Ormond, James's younger sister, was second.

With a large foreign contingent also taking part in the races, Ormond had to settle for fifth place overall. Baxter was going well in the first leg yesterday when he straddled gate near the finish and was disqualified.

Ormond leads the combined standings after finishing sixth in the downhill on Tuesday, his first downhill of the season. That race was won by Andrew Freshwater, who

finished only ninth-fastest of the Britons yesterday but is confident of overtaking Ormond in the giant slalom and super giant.

Emma Carrick-Anderson

won the women's slalom with ease, confirming her reputation as technically the best of the women. Having done so

well in the world championships though, she was disappointed not to beat the best of the non-British entries. Celine Dole, of France, was faster by 0.1sec. Sophie Ormond, James's younger sister, was second.

With a large foreign contingent also taking part in the races, Ormond had to settle for fifth place overall. Baxter was going well in the first leg yesterday when he straddled gate near the finish and was disqualified.

Ormond leads the combined

HOCKEY

Defeated England left in last place

Australia 5
England 2

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN
IN KARACHI

ENGLAND'S campaign in the five-nation Golden Jubilee tournament ended here yesterday with a defeat by Australia, who wiped out a 2-0 deficit to win convincingly. The result consigned England to last place and put them out of the medal play-offs.

Everything went right for England, who swept to a 2-0 lead in 13 minutes with strong running and a quick interchange of positions. To the fifth minute Garcia scored with an angled shot from the right of the circle and eight minutes later an attack launched by Garrard, helped along by Head, ended in a goal by Crutchley.

Australia responded in the 24th minute with a goal by Smith, who put the finishing touch to a 2-0 lead by Davies. By half-time they were 3-2 ahead, Garcia having scored two goals, his first from a short corner.

After the interval England pinned Australia in their own half for 25 minutes, but, although several shots were aimed at goal by Conway, Crutchley and Waugh, the vigilance of Dreher, the Aus-

tralia's top goalkeeper, prevented a

goal. The round-robin match between Germany and Holland tomorrow will be a dress rehearsal for the final on Sunday; their positions are unassimilable. Sunday will meet Australia on consecutive days, the second time for the bronze medal. Today is a rest day.

AUSTRALIA: L. Disher, O. Spaul, M. York, S. Courtney, B. Lewis, T. Evans, T. Stacey, D. P. Lewis, P. Chapp, S. Davies, M. Smith. Substitutes used: M. Brennan, J. Hall, L. P. Lewis.

ENGLAND: D. Lupton, J. Waugh, B. Garrard, A. Head, J. S. Head, R. Garcia (captain), R. Conway, L. Waugh, B. Dreher. Substitutes used: N. Conway, D. Hall, L. P. Lewis.

Umpires: C. Sabrech (Germany), G. Gorissen (Holland).

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-final, second leg: A. Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Asturias won 3-2 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: A. Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Monta (Asturias) 3-0 (on aggregate). Monta won 3-1 on aggregate.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round

Paying the price for ifs with too many buts

Pitiful to recollect it now, of course, but, on Tuesday afternoon, I was really looking forward to the match. "Y'a-t-il un match de football quelque part ce soir?" I practised saying in an eager tone, as the spangly new airport bus from Nice sped east in bright sun along the high coast road of the Riviera. "A quelle heure commence le spectacle?"

Spotting the elegant arches of the Louis II Stadium below in the town, I gave a little squeal, and pointed it out to some Newcastle supporters. "The er, Stade!" I said. Now that I remember it, those poor black-and-white-clad saps were pretty excited about it, too. "Reckon they're in for a bit of a culture shock, like," one of my companions suggested, meaning the invasion of irrepressible Geordies who would spend their afternoon at leisure in the Principality ordering beers in high multiples ("That's not for all of us, mind; that's each!"), baring their NUFC tattos for the local papers and standing hilariously at hairpin bends in Monte Carlo making "Nyow! Nyow!" noises at passing cars. Little did any of us suspect that Monaco would later ignominiously cut through Newcastle like bullets through a cream

puff, thus making the culture shock rebound all at once, and travel quite forcibly in the opposite direction.

If only Newcastle had redeemed themselves by a single goal, or a single stroke of genius, or a couple of decent passes. If only Girola had not fallen over so often. If only Beardsley had not given the ball away. Nobody wants to travel hundreds of miles at great expense and be made to look like jerks, but that is pretty much what happened on Tuesday. This match was a jaw-dropping disaster for Newcastle, the second half being about as much a treat for the eyes as removing a plaster from your eyelids.

Monaco looked like greyhounds; Newcastle were just doggy.

"Inspirante. Benarbia travaille un coup-franc qui hypnotise l'Historie," a joyous Nice-Matin reported next day.

L'Equipe rubbed it in, too — "3-0, cette fois ça la demi-finale est dans la

Dame la poche" — funny how certain phrases translate, and other idioms come as a surprise. *But* is the word for goal in French, and there is even a newspaper called *But le passion du foot*.

However, I did not know this on Tuesday night, when the word inexplicably appeared on the scoreboard

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

in big letters after Legwinski's opener. In this bare form, it provided a cruel ray of hope. The ball was soaring in, the crowd yelled and danced, and then the word *BUT* appeared, looking for all the world like an enormous quibble.

"*But?*" I asked, holding my breath. "But what? But he was outside? But we really should go back and take that again because you obviously weren't ready?" But nothing, as it turned out, just *BUT*!

The Newcastle supporters' good spirits will return in time, of course, but I will never forget hearing one of

them articulate beautifully his hurt feelings after the match, in halting, regretful franglais. "You, vous, Monaco — très good," he told a gratified passer-by. "We, Newcastle — shite."

So it was a surreal day, all in all; and just as every Newcastle traveller will remember March 18 with a mixture of emotions, so will I. Having never seen Newcastle in the flesh before, I now found myself not only in the same stadium as the famous squad, but fitting not a phrase-book's toss from Les Ferdinand and Alan Shearer. Gosh!

How extraordinary to reflect that, a year ago, I had never heard of Shearer, or his equally famous dicky now I excitedly pick him out by recognising the back of his head. "That's Shearer!" I told a surprised sophisticate from *The Herald Tribune*'s Paris office, pointing to where the great No 9 sat several rows in front. I was entranced.

So, on top of all the other disappointments, just my luck that it was Monaco's night. Twice I had the opportunity to catch Shearer's eye and give him a jolly smile of recognition, but twice I felt like a village idiot waving at a funeral. Unfortunately, the proper facial expression just does not exist to convey

a) Guilty that you lost; b) But ever so pleased to see you; c) You did deserve to lose, though, didn't you? and d) It'll all look better in the morning.

Shamelessly, I hung around at the players' exit, experimenting with rueful grimaces and sympathetic nods, but finally gave up because none of my heroes gave me a glance, and, besides, having tried to get Chris Waddle's attention for at least half an hour, my face ached. When poor Darren Peacock glided past, like a ghost, I decided: "No, they've suffered enough, without this," and, not before time, I also recollected Robert Crampton's *Times* piece about Eric

Cantona last Saturday, in which he described "looserish" middle-aged women waiting at gates to see footballers. Lumine. Loserish. *Mon dieu, c'est moi!*

Next morning, on Monte Carlo TV, anyone expecting to see endless replays of the match found instead a half-hour commercial for a range of microwave accessories — so nobody should imagine that Monaco was big-headed or gobby, or anything other than sportive.

My main worry was for that poor Newcastle supporter sorrowfully shaking hands with strangers under the Monaco moon.

DENIS DALROUZE/REUTERS



Gritschuk and Platov perform their relatively tender routine in Lausanne yesterday

ICE SKATING

Aspiring Britons still lusting in the shadows

FROM SIMON BARNES IN LAUSANNE

MOST sports are about war. Most dances are about sex, and that counts double for the tango. Why? Look at Marika Humphreys. You'd think she was a nice, ordinary, if noticeably pretty English girl. But then the music started, and she was snarling with unrestrained lust at her partner, Philip Askev, as if she were in two minds as to whether to devour him or disembowel him.

Perhaps it is true, what they say about bad men. And then the music stopped. And she was quite all right again. The most recent British assault on the world ice dancing championship was going strong. This was the original dance section of the competition; the medals will be awarded after the free programme, tonight.

And Marika won't get one, alas, for all those curled and glossed lips, and those white, bared teeth. She and Phil are down with the dead men after collecting 4.8s in a sport in which Brits had once known nothing but sixes. The nation that produced Torvill and Dean stands sixteenth out of 29 starters in the competition.

This is still pretty good, and they skated with verve and charm as well as lust, but, all the same, they do not look like the legitimate heirs to the T&D tradition. What went wrong?

Several couples have sought to follow Torvill and Dean and some made a good fist of it. Karen Barber and Nicky Slater finished fifth in the world with a delightful Char-

Carlo Fassi, the Italian coach who inspired John Curry and Robin Cousins to Olympic titles, has died in hospital after suffering a heart attack in Lausanne, aged 67. Fassi was coach to Nicole Bobek, of the United States.

lie Chaplin routine. After them came Sharon Jones and Paul Askev. Finishing ninth in the world was no disgrace, but nobody could ever forgive them for not being T&D.

So the chance to establish a tradition of excellence has, somehow, gone down the plughole. Well, it must have been hard to write first dramas after Shakespeare had

done his stuff and no one was able to follow Milton with another blank verse epic. Perhaps the truly great somehow use up their chosen medium, at least for those around them.

Certainly the shadow of Torvill and Dean is dense and certainly no British ice dancer seems able to emerge from it. Torvill and Dean were, in their way, great artists condemned to a rather ludicrous medium. If James Joyce had been committed to writing only cowboy stories, he would have written cowboy stories of genius, but they wouldn't have been *Ulysses*.

And so, at the opposite end of the championship spectrum, the couples smiled lustfully in the direction of the crown that Torvill and Dean once wore. Enflamed with simulated lechery, they went to war in sequins and nude-coloured nylon, each couple determined to outsex the rest. We wanted a fair fight, no messing about below the belt, and may the most lascivious woman win.

Russia seems to do a good line in lascivious women. The great Russian tradition of ice dance — or ice anything for that matter — shows no sign of dying out. Perhaps because it was never dominated by a single act.

Three Russian couples took the ice, each one more erotically charged than the one before. Three and a half hours of wall-to-wall female sexual aggression reached its climax, if that is quite the word I'm looking for, with Oksana Gritschuk and Evgeny Platov.

This is the top Russian pair and I predict that they will win the championship tonight. I am not alone in this; so does everyone else in Lausanne.

They bagged a perfect six from one judge yesterday, the first ice dance couple to do so at the world championships since Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay the love 'em or hate 'em French-Canadian pair, in 1991. Torvill and Dean got nine sixes for artistic

impressions at the world championships of 1984.

G&P, if I may call them that, will get more tomorrow, I fancy. They cleverly rang the changes on the tango clichés.

Gritschuk, a platinum blonde of some presence, was dressed in scarlet, skirt slashed from hem up to the fifth rib. But she played it more submissive

than the rest. Lust, she implied is for wimps, tenderness is for another master altogether.

Russian couples finished first, second and seventh, which shows the viability of a tradition of excellence and underlines the way that British ice dance somehow failed to establish one.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

stood prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung lips and hoped for still better things tonight. She is able to project all about her an air of complete silliness, something that is, at least for the moment, quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that.

</

Hugh's all-consuming interest in wildlife

There is the Rolf Harris view of the animal kingdom and then there is Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's. For while Harris offers us unpean variations on "cuddly little chap, isn't he?" in *Animal Hospital*, F-W's interest can be boiled down to one simple question: "Can you eat it?"

As regular readers may recall, when F-W goes eel-fishing I am never far behind. I can't recall a television event that left quite the same impression as last year's lesson in skinning an eel. "For this," he began brightly, "you need a stout post, a four-inch nail and a pair of pliers." It made Michael Palin's famous difficulty with snake soup (first choose your very much alive snake) look like another episode of *Rick Stein*.

Last night, F-W, now on board the good ship *Bain Marie*, went eel-fishing again. I packed my tool kit. As it turned out, however, I needn't have bothered because in

this instalment of *A Cook on the Wild Side* (Channel 4) he was going eel-fishing, for the tiny little baby eels that creep along the River Severn under cover of darkness. "Wriggly little chaps," Harris would have said had he been there, wrinkling his nose for full sopp effect. F-W was there and we knew what he was thinking. Suddenly, the Sargasso Sea seemed an awfully long way away.

Now at this point I was totally relaxed. Evers were obviously too small to need skinning. I put the pliers away and settled down to enjoy the comic banter of Hartley Everett, West Country eel-catcher extraordinaire. Evers got more curious as they grew longer, see: "Ten per cent longer, 10 per cent cleverer, [there was a long, West Country pause] than a cabbage."

And with that it was nearly time for breakfast. The evers in Hartley's bucket wriggled prettily in anticipation — breakfast, yum-

my. He was going to cook them an allegedly traditional way, with slices of Old Spot bacon and a goose egg, while F-W was showing off with something involving garlic, chilli flakes and rock salt. But first they had to get rid of the "wangs", a sort of slime that keeps evers... well, slimy. This was achieved very gently, with a tea-towel. The evers wriggled in grateful delight. "Ooh, much better, no more nasty wump." And with that Hartley and Hugh dumped them in two very hot frying pans... alive.

Really, where was Rolf Harris when we needed him? Would he get the frying pan to the vets in time? Would he hover in the operating theatre, whispering "Baby eels brought in with nasty, first-degree burns"? Would he utter the dread "it's not looking very good", or bounce back to his recovery room here with:



Matthew Bond

"Cute little chaps, aren't they?" Alas, (particularly for the evers) we never found out. By the time we returned from the long shot to which the director had tactfully retreated, the fatal damage was more or less done. F-W was pushing a few would-be escapees to the bottom of his pan with his deadly spanula (bet all the perfumes of Arabia won't get the vomp off that). "We just want to get

the little bleeders dead as quickly as possible," he muttered.

Not a sentiment, I expect, you'll find stored very often in the new series of *Animal Hospital* (BBC1) as Rolf and the gang descended on the Hampden Veterinary Practice in Aylesbury. "They've been treating animals here for over 100 years — incredible isn't it? Quite incred-

ible, Rolf," he added.

The traditional off-shopper was provided by Louis, a black cat which had clearly had a Fearnley-Whittingstall cross its path recently. The results had luck had caused a massive bacterial infection and possibly a brace of letal feline viruses. "It's not looking very good," whispered Rolf. The cat, however, still has a fighting chance of making it to next week; which is more than can be said for the evers.

you have to get well down to the minor roles before you even begin to find names you don't know.

This fairly outrageous casting provides the clue that we are in for the most theatrical and mannered adaptation of a P.D. James "Delighesh" novel that I can recall. Real life has effectively come to a halt, along with anything resembling real work for Commander Delighesh (Roy Marsden) who spends much of the time looking moodily out of his riverside window.

With the help of some reasonably convincing computer graphics, a Venetian *palazzo* has sprung up on the bank of the Thames (so far everybody involved either lives or works by the river) providing offices for the ailing Peverell Press and a setting for what is essentially an urban version of a country house murder mystery. The body count currently stands at two. Unless you include the evers...

CHOICE

Tomorrow's World: Megalab '97

The grand finale to the BBC's Science Week is a live, viewer-participation programme from the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Spoken word, science and the scientific validity of the Megalab concept are being used to attract a huge audience of television audiences to create a huge laboratory, but it never fails to produce watchable fare. One of the experiments being carried out tonight goes to the heart of British legal procedures by looking at how psychology affects the jury system. Another exercise, focusing on genetics, evolution and the brain, tries to establish whether left-handed people are more, less, talented than right-handers. The natural world is not neglected, however, and there are items about the red squirrel's battle for survival and a contest to see which of the world's top robotic mice get the cheese.

Gardener's World

You never know with Bob Flowerdew, a gardening guru as unconventional as his amateurish past. Regular viewers of this programme can hardly forget his idiosyncratic uses for old carpet, discarded car tyres and derelict freezers. Nothing quite as eccentric is on view tonight but the man who has turned the recycling of the unwanted into an art form has some handy tips of what to do with the ash from a stove. After that the show settles into a more orthodox pattern as the cheery Alan Titchmarsh continues to brighten up his back yard and Roy Lancaster begins his first of four reports on the flowers of South Africa. And what could be more solidly traditional than a visit to a National Trust property? Peckover House in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was laid out in Victorian times and retains its period character.

Doomsday Virus

ITV, 9.00pm (not Northern Ireland)

The disaster movie lives on in this tale of a deadly virus which escapes from a laboratory in Germany and gets on board an American 7-7 taking holidaymakers back to New York for Christmas. It is soon clear that they will be lucky to get there. Hardly has the plane taken off from Frankfurt than the carrier of the strain has croaked his last. All 250 passengers could be dead in 48 hours. To make matters worse, country after country refuses the aircraft landing rights. To make things even worse, the CIA comes up with a novel, if extreme, solution. Such is the plot, and plot is mostly what this American mini-series offers. The cast includes Jane Leeves, the English star of *Frasier*, and other faces familiar from US imports, but they get so little chance to shine that the roles might just as well have been taken by robots.

Silent Witness: Only the Lonely

ITV, 9.30pm

Silent Witness is either becoming less gruesome or we are getting used to seeing naked corpses spread out on the slab. This time the stiff is a 28-year-old married woman who has been strangled with her thighs. Gillian Richmond's script sets up a classic whodunit. The victim had been having an affair, which makes her husband a suspect. But she may have decided to end the relationship, in which case the murderer could have been her lover's revenge. But if this sounds too simple a case to spread over two episodes, Richmond has other possibilities with which to tease us. At any rate, the investigation is a lot more intriguing than the desultory romance between Amanda Burton's buttoned-up pathologist and that dumpy policeman of the forensic lab, although her strange viser.

Peter Waymark

10.28 Shapes of the Invisible (342860)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (566550)

11.26 World Figure Skating Championships

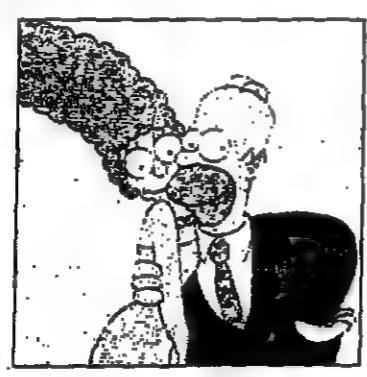
The climax of the ice dance competition (561792)

12.05 Stun the White Rabbit Last in series (561260)

1.20 Forbidden: Christopher Frayling on El Topo (360700)

1.30-3.30 El Topo (1971) Cult classic that blends 1960s mysticism with spaghetti western violence and culminates in a graphic, bloody massacre. Directed by Alejandro Jodorowsky. In Spanish with English subtitles (53319)

2.00 Weather (503193)



Marge and Homer Simpson (6.00pm)

6.00 The Simpsons Lisa is shown how to use the saxophone to express her sadness (T) (224179)

6.25 Star Trek (T) (221353)

7.10 Pole to Pole Michael Palin arrives in Ethiopia (T) (228119)

8.00 Birding with Bill Oddie on the Island of Islay, where there are thousands of wild geese; plus, how to attract birds to the garden (481815)

8.30 Gardener's World in the first of two reports from South Africa, Roy Lancaster visits Cape Province's wild flowers (T) (5150)

9.00 Attack of the 50ft Women (1994) with Daryl Hannah. A tongue-in-cheek remake of the 1950s cult sci-fi film, a long-suffering housewife, our searching for her philandering husband, is confronted by a UFO. She begins to grow at an alarming rate, taking revenge on all and sundry. Directed by Christopher Guest (T) (3421)

10.28 Shapes of the Invisible (342860)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (566550)

11.26 World Figure Skating Championships

The climax of the ice dance competition (561792)

12.05 Stun the White Rabbit Last in series (561260)

1.20 Forbidden: Christopher Frayling on El Topo (360700)

1.30-3.30 El Topo (1971) Cult classic that blends 1960s mysticism with spaghetti western violence and culminates in a graphic, bloody massacre. Directed by Alejandro Jodorowsky. In Spanish with English subtitles (53319)

2.00 Weather (503193)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode

The number pad to each TV programme features a VideoPlus+ number, which allows you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you want to record. VideoPlus+ (T), PlusCode (T) and Video+ Programme are trademarks of Gamma Development Ltd.

7.30pm End (1989) 4.00 Where the Fat Fern Grows: Part 2 (1991) (3022)

6.00 Everlasting, New Jersey (1988) (56206) 12.00 Days of Our Lives (452826) 12.00 The Last Days of the Century (1995) (56207) 10.00 The Last Days of the Century (1995) (56208) 12.00 Dated and Confused (1993) (16123) 9.15 The Last Days of the Century (1995) (56209) 12.00 Ruby (1994) (56210) 3.15 Out of Annie's Past (1994) (56206) 4.00 Made-to-order (T) (56211)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (560) 5.00 Esther (T) (8131)

5.30 Going, Going, Gone (112)

6.00 Open University: Reflections on a Global Screen (798651) 8.25 Reading the Landscape (317470) 7.15 News 7.30 Wacky Races (T) (562315) 7.55 The Really Wild Show (T) (703389) 8.20 Just So Stories (T) (742226) 8.35 The Recruit (561773) 9.00 The French Experience (567808) 9.15 The Biology Collection (165860) 9.45 Watch (773413) 10.00 Playdays (18215) 10.30 Holch Polch House (204873) 10.50 Cosmo and Ollie in Punjabi and English (5912334) 11.00 Look and Read (9948112) 11.20 Short Circuit (9331860) 11.40 English Time (9719334) 12.00 English File (36380) 1.00 Scene (55334) 1.30 Le Club (8318160) 1.45 Words and Pictures (6318635) 2.00 Just So Stories (3671804) 2.10 Sport on Friday, Helen Rollason introduces coverage of the ladies' short programme from the World Figure Skating Championships (57957) 2.35 Today's the Day (9796) 3.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (560) 3.30 Esther (T) (8131)

4.00 News (T) and weather (57792)

4.30 Neighbours (T) (5623402)

5.00 News (T) and weather (711)

6.30 Newsroom South East (173)

7.00 Big Break Jim Davidson hosts the snooker based game show featuring professional player Tony Knowles, John Parrot and David Taylor (T) (3783)

7.30 Top of the Pops (T) (247)

8.00 *Tomorrow's World*: Megalab '97 Live from the NEC in Birmingham (T) (56733)

8.30 A Question of Sport Table tennis seis Lisa Lomas, rugby's Jonathan Davies, Aston Villa's Mark Beecham and swimmer Graeme Smith join David Coleman and team captain John Parrot and Sam Torrance (T) (5608)

9.00 News (T), regional news and weather (4150)

9.30 *Silent Witness*: Only the Lonely

Lonely in the first of a two-part story. Rose is certain there's more to a woman's death than meets the eye. With Amanda Burton, Mick Ford and William Armstrong (T) (17692)

10.20 The Mrs Merton Show Keith Chegwin and Ian Botham join the perky pensioner on the sofa tonight (T) (36515)

10.50 *Poltergeist* (1982) with JoBeth Williams, Craig T. Nelson and Heather O'Rourke. The home of an afi-American family is invaded by spooks who gain access through the television set. Produced by Steven Spielberg and directed by Tobe Hooper (T) (31570)

12.40pm *That's Your Funeral* (1972) Macbain comedy, with Bill Fraser, Raymond Huntley and David Betley. Directed by John Robins (7063700)

1.00 *Weather* (503193)

2.00 *Weather* (503193)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode

The number pad to each TV programme features a VideoPlus+ number, which allows you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you want to record. VideoPlus+ (T), PlusCode (T) and Video+ Programme are trademarks of Gamma Development Ltd.

2.00pm End (1989) 4.00 Where the Fat Fern Grows: Part 2 (1991) (3022)

6.00 Everlasting, New Jersey (1988) (56206) 12.00 Days of Our Lives (452826) 12.00 The Last Days of the Century (1995) (56207) 10.00 The Last Days of the Century (1995) (56208) 12.00 Dated and Confused (1993) (16123) 9.15 The Last Days of the Century (1995) (56209) 12.00 Ruby (1994) (56210) 3.15 Out of Annie's Past (1994) (56206) 4.00 Made-to-order (T) (56211)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (560) 5.00 Esther (T) (8131)

5.30 Going, Going, Gone (112)

6.00 Open University: Reflections on a Global Screen (798651) 8.25 Reading the Landscape (317470) 7.15 News 7.30 Wacky Races (T) (562315) 7.55 The Really Wild Show (T) (703389) 8.20 Just So Stories (T) (742226) 8.35 The Recruit (561773) 9.00 The French Experience (567808) 9.15 The Biology Collection (165860) 9.45 Watch (773413) 10.00 Playdays (18215) 10.30 Holch Polch House (204873) 10.50 Cosmo and Ollie in Punjabi and English (5912334) 11.00 Look and Read (9948112) 11.20 Short Circuit (9331860) 11.40 English Time (9719334) 12.00 English File (36380) 1.00 Scene (55334) 1.30 Le Club (8318160) 1.45 Words and Pictures (6318635) 2.00 Just So Stories (3671804) 2.10 Sport on Friday, Helen Rollason introduces coverage of the ladies' short programme from the World Figure Skating Championships (57957) 2.35 Today's the Day (9796) 3.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (560) 3.30 Esther (T) (8131)

4.00 News (T) and weather (57792)

4.30 Neighbours (T) (5623402)

Mobutu calls for national council as rebels plan polls

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA AND SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

ZAIRE'S ailing President Mobutu last night called for a ceasefire and the creation of a national council to resolve the crisis in his country.

Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, has said that he will agree to a ceasefire only after negotiations with the President on how the Zairean leader, who seized power in 1965, will step down. Rebels now occupy more than a fifth of the country, and captured its third largest city, Kisangani, on Saturday, raising fears of a coup in Kinshasa, the capital.

Mr Mobutu was expected to fly home from France today to try to resolve the political crisis, which is veering from absurd drama to dangerous farce. His son, Nzanga Mobutu, also the President's spokesman, said that his father no longer ruled out talks with the leaders of the rebellion, but wished first to discuss the issue with political and military leaders in Kinshasa. Previously the President had said he intended to crush the rebels. It was not clear if a ceasefire remained a prior condition for starting negotiations.

Nzanga Mobutu also de-

nied reports that members of his family had fled to the Congo. Close family members were still with President Mobutu in France or had remained in France, he said.

The President left hospital in Monaco, where he has been receiving treatment after surgery for prostate cancer, on Wednesday to return to his luxury Riviera villa at Roquebrune-Cap-Martin. His private plane has been on standby at Nice airport since Tuesday evening.

Yesterday his opponents and enemies jostled for positions in a collapsed Government while the rebels began organising elections in areas they control.

The Union for Democracy and Social Progress, the main opposition party in Kinshasa

Paris: France. President Mobutu's staunchest supporter, yesterday urged its citizens to leave Zaire (Susan Bell writes). It sent aircraft and about 100 troops to neighbouring Congo and Gabon in case it had to protect or evacuate an estimated 1,500 French nationals in Zaire.

that has failed to make an impact on Mr Mobutu's regime over the past six years, attempted simultaneously to ally itself with the eastern rebels and with the President.

Sitting in his garden under a mango tree Adrien Phongo, the party Secretary-General, yesterday announced that he was sending a delegation to open talks with Mr Kabila.

"These should lead to a ceasefire and a government of national unity which will then organise elections," Dr Phongo said.

Then, as news that President Mobutu was expected to return to Kinshasa filtered through, his bold rhetoric crumbled. With the look of a child caught opening his parents' drinks' cabinet, Dr Phongo scrambled to ensure a secure future — should Zaire's big regan control.

"Of course, only the President can empower a prime minister," he said.

The President's wizardry has been eclipsed by the rebels' successes that were yesterday being cemented with the organising of elections behind their lines for local administrative posts. In seven communes leaders will

be chosen who will, in turn, elect a mayor and provincial governor.

Mwanzo Kongolo, the rebel justice commissioner, said: "We are here to give them power denied them for so long. That is the basic message we have and to illustrate it we will have visible, but not perfect, elections."

Before he fell ill this is the sort of challenge Mr Mobutu would have relished. In the past 32 years he has run Zaire as his personal fiefdom, seeing off countless rebellions and invasions, with the help of France, Morocco and Belgium. But, since the uprising his main concerns have been his health and family.

His army, unpaid and under-equipped, has consistently given ground to the rebels. But, in common with his Opposition, Mr Mobutu has appeared unable to grasp that the rebels have the upper hand.

American State Department officials and diplomats in Kinshasa said yesterday that Mr Mobutu and his entourage appeared to be "in denial" over the extent and threat of the rebellion. "They really don't seem to understand that Mobutu is not going to be able to come back and wave the magic fly whisk and burn — Kabila disappears," said a European ambassador.

Leon Kengo wa Dondo, Zaire's Prime Minister, was removed by parliamentarians earlier this week under pressure from the army, which blamed him for the theft of funds intended for the war effort. But yesterday he returned from regional talks in Nairobi insisting that he was in charge of the bankrupt administration.



Man charged with Oklahoma bombing 'had Klan links'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TIMOTHY McVEIGH, in the most detailed account of his alleged role in the Oklahoma City bombing, has told his lawyers that his harsh anti-government sentiments first found expression as a member of the Ku-Klux-Klan.

A fortnight before his trial opens in Denver, the chief suspect in America's worst act of terrorism is reported to have told his defence team that he joined the white supremacist organisation in 1992 shortly after being discharged from the army.

Based on statements given to the lawyers, the New York

Post said yesterday that three years later and five days before his 27th birthday, Mr McVeigh drove a yellow Ryder van packed with explosives to Oklahoma City.

The next day he parked the van outside the Alfred Murrah building and detonated the device. The explosion ripped through the building, killing 168 adults and children and injuring more than 500 people in the vicinity.

The latest account of Mr McVeigh's involvement comes after a series of reported "confessions" in the Dallas

Morning News and Playboy which resulted in demands by his lawyers that the trial should be postponed and moved to another venue. They said it would be impossible to select a fair jury in the circumstances.

Richard Matsch, the judge trying the case, ruled that jury selection will start in Denver as planned on Easter Monday despite an almost daily crop of articles which have done little to convince America that either Mr McVeigh, or his co-defendant, Terry Nichols, can hope for a non-partisan panel of potential jurors.

A CONFIDANT of Baroness Thatcher has been accused of anti-Asian racism after he published a magazine cartoon lampooning President Clinton's links to Chinese money.

John O'Sullivan, an expatriate British journalist who helped the former Prime Minister with her memoirs and who now edits the right-of-centre New York magazine *National Review*, commissioned a front-cover illustration for his publication's latest issue.

The cartoon promoted an article about the Clinton Administration's ill-fated involvements with Asian supporters such as John Huang, James Riady and

officials from Beijing. It depicted a toothy Mr Clinton in a Chinese farmer's hat, holding a tray of tea, beside a Mrs Clinton dressed as Madame Mao. Vice-President Al Gore, who has been accused of illegally accepting political donations at a Buddhist temple, appeared in the cartoon as a monk holding a fan of cash. The caption read: The Manchurian Candidates.

Asian-American pressure groups saw an outrageous slur. Their reaction says much for the way some Asian-Americans would like the White House donations scandal to go: towards victimhood. The National Asian Pacific Legal Consortium, a lobbying

outfit which can perhaps be described as a garlic and ginger group, attacked the cartoon as "incredibly offensive", pointing to its "buck-teeth and grotesque faces".

Daphne Kwok, director of the Organisation of Chinese Americans, demanded an apology from Mr O'Sullivan and his publisher, the veteran right-wing campaigner William Buckley.

"We find the cover extremely offensive and racist," said Ms Kwok. "There's an inability to distinguish between Asians and Asian-Americans, foreigners and US citizens. It is reminiscent of the caricature made of the Chinese in the 1800s."

The Asian-American Journalists' Association said that with the tea tray *National Review* had portrayed "Asians as servants of America". The Asian-American Legal De-

fence and Education Fund insisted that the cartoon suggested that Chinese Communists were brainwashing Washington.

Mr O'Sullivan reacted to the criticism with a zest which Lady Thatcher might recognise. "They have not a snowball's chance in hell of an apology." He called the cartoon "vile and slanderous" and detected "an orchestrated campaign by the Ethnic Grievance Industry".

The magazine has received many angry letters, said Mr O'Sullivan. He added: "The cover was a fine example of the political cartoon that has been a glory of American debate since Thomas Nast."

Up to 30% off the Macintosh Performa range. (It's not a dream.)

Now we've reduced the price of a Macintosh Performa™, it's even easier to make your dreams a reality. From just £1,299 (inc VAT)† it's a ready-to-use, plug-in and switch-on system — with all the trimmings. Powered by PowerPC™ processors with innovative RISC technology, they come with all the software you need, from spreadsheet applications and word-processing to games and educational titles. There's a high-speed CD-ROM drive and full stereo sound, so you can enjoy the best in multimedia. And all the latest models are Internet ready, with a modem included as standard. In fact, we've given you everything you once dreamed of — at prices that are absolutely real.

Give your dreams a chance.



For details of your nearest Macintosh Performa stockist, call free on: 0800 234 800.

© March 1997 Apple Computer Inc. The Apple logo is a registered trade mark and Apple and Macintosh Performa are trademarks of Apple Computer Inc. registered in the US and other countries. Performa is a trademark of International Business Machines and is under license thereto. *Based on the difference between the suggested retail price of the Apple Power Macintosh Performa 600 and the suggested retail price of the Apple Power Macintosh Performa 400. †Suggested retail price of the Apple Power Macintosh Performa 600. Macintosh Performa 600 prices at £1,299. Apple Power Macintosh Performa 400 prices at £1,099. All prices are subject to change and are exclusive of delivery and VAT. © 1997 Apple Computer Inc.

Cartoon attracts Asian-American fire

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

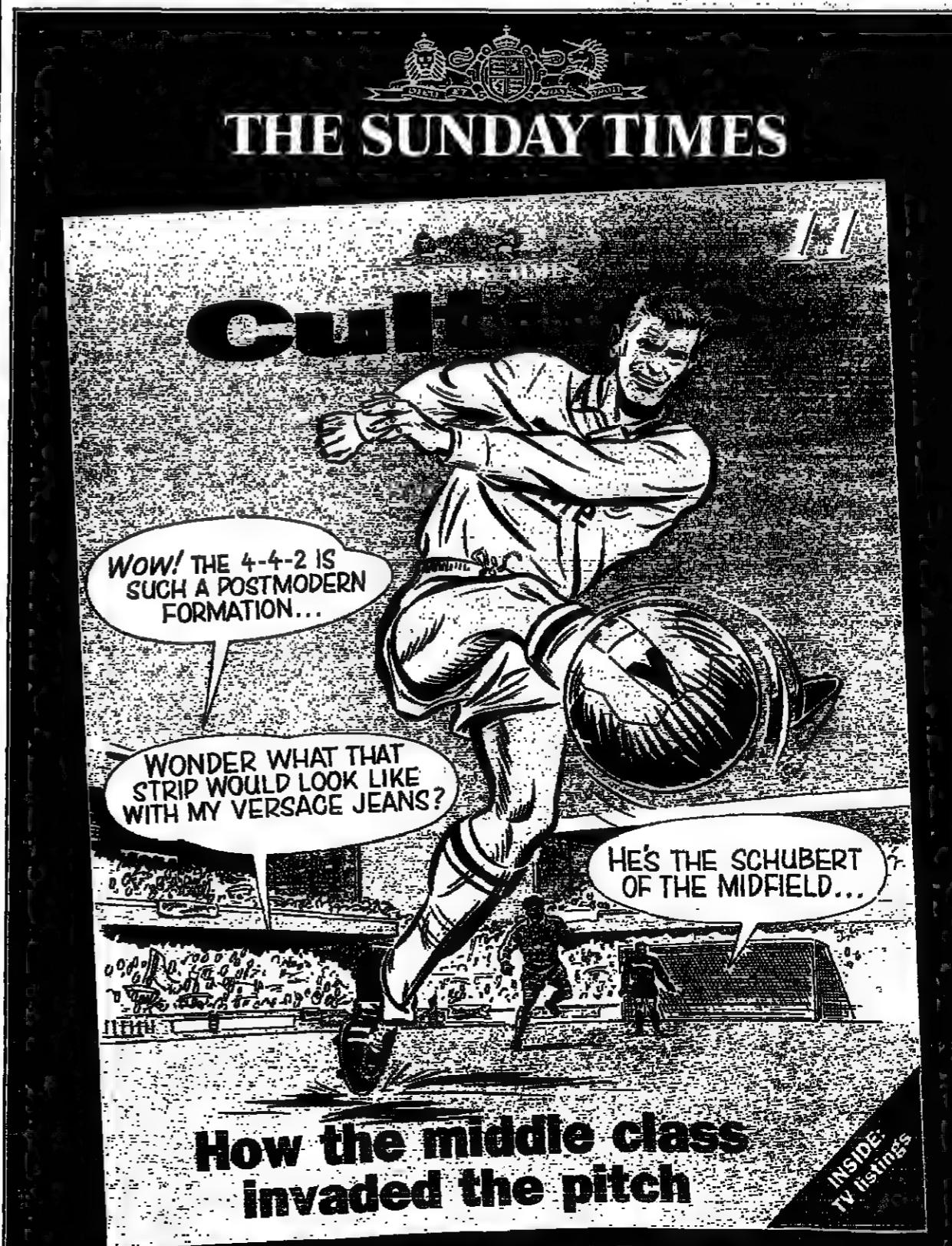
The cartoon attracted Asian-American pressure groups saw an outrageous slur. Their reaction says much for the way some Asian-Americans would like the White House donations scandal to go: towards victimhood. The National Asian Pacific Legal Consortium, a lobbying

outfit which can perhaps be described as a garlic and ginger group, attacked the cartoon as "incredibly offensive", pointing to its "buck-teeth and grotesque faces".

Daphne Kwok, director of the Organisation of Chinese Americans, demanded an apology from Mr O'Sullivan and his publisher, the veteran right-wing campaigner William Buckley.

"We find the cover extremely offensive and racist," said Ms Kwok. "There's an inability to distinguish between Asians and Asian-Americans, foreigners and US citizens. It is reminiscent of the caricature made of the Chinese in the 1800s."

The Asian-American Journalists' Association said that with the tea tray *National Review* had portrayed "Asians as servants of America". The Asian-American Legal De-



FOOTBALL... IT'S IN THE CULTURE

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 21 1997

Australia offers Papua its own army trainers in place of £20m hired soldiers

Mercenaries' contract is suspended to halt riots

FROM NOEL PASCOE IN PORT MORESBY AND ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

PORT MORESBY, the capital of Papua New Guinea, yesterday slid towards anarchy with rioting and looting while Sir Julius Chan, the Prime Minister, last night sought to ease tensions by suspending the reported £20 million contract with a British mercenary force.

One looter was decapitated when he was tackled by a knife-wielding security guard, and two people were injured as army and police fired on each other.

Hooligans, meanwhile, took advantage of the unrest to carry away the contents of a supermarket; they then took refuge in a downtown barracks when police and military confronted them and fired teargas and live ammunition into the air to make them withdraw.

Sir Julius said the contract would be suspended until allegations of corruption were investigated in an agreement which Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok — the sacked

Defence Force commander — said could eventually cost the state £75 million.

The Australian Government urged an end to the mercenary contract and offered to replace the security firm, Sandline International, with an Australian Army force of trainers, according to diplomatic sources.

A number of the British mercenaries have left Papua New Guinea over the past few days, and Tim Spicer, the Sandline chief executive, was freed from four days' arrest in a Port Moresby barracks.

Two men, one of them said to be a relative of Sir Julius, were arrested near the barracks. One was said to be armed with a 9mm German pistol with two magazines of ammunition, the other was said to have a loaded and cocked pistol in his possession.

Sources said the second man was employed by Network International, a firm linked to the Prime Minister's family. British diplomats in Port



Chefs in a stew over £36,000 banquet

FROM INIGO GILMORE

IN CAPE TOWN

MORE than 100 guests paying £50,000 rand (£36,000) a couple descended on Robben Island last night for a fundraising banquet at which they rubbed shoulders with President Mandela, Hillary Clinton, Bill Cosby, the actor, and Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General.

The guests travelled by helicopter or ferry across the five miles of sea from Cape Town to the tiny island where Mr Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in prison. Earlier in the day, Mrs Clinton had been escorted by Mr Mandela on a tour of the prison and his cell; they were followed later by Mr Cosby.

In January, the island was declared a national monument and proceeds of the evening will go to the island museum and political prisoners' fund, launched by Mr Mandela in October after a reunion of former political prisoners showed that many had fallen on hard times.

Last night the guests dined on salmon and trout tartare with cucumber salad, followed by beef consomme with chicken dumplings, stuffed baby chicken served with wild rice, topped off with fruit sorbet.

It seems unlikely that such an event will be staged again. Distressed caterers from a Cape Town firm spoke about how they endured three unhappy days on the choppy waters, shipping across crockery, cutlery, food and glasses. Yesterday afternoon, disaster struck when a minibus to be used to ferry guests around the island plunged into the sea after coming loose from the helicopter airlifting it in.

After the incident the banquet organisers decided not to ship the second one, just in case. "It has been totally chaotic," Jason Lasker, 31, the head chef, said. "It has only been three days, but I am a nervous wreck."

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Cuba offer to Lima guerrillas

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI
SOUTH AMERICA
CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Castro of Cuba has offered political asylum to the 18 Marxist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebels holding 72 hostages at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima, the Peruvian capital.

The offer came yesterday after Señor Castro met a Japanese government envoy who appears to have sought his help to try to solve the 94-day siege. Masahiko Kamura, the Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister, arrived in Havana on Wednesday with a letter from Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister.

Earlier in the week Mr Kamura had visited Lima, where negotiations between the hostage-takers and Peru's Government remained at a stalemate amid heightening concern over the hostages' health.

Señor Castro yesterday said he hoped his offer would "speed up" negotiations to end the crisis. But the guerrillas have so far rejected various "safe passage" offers. Their leader, Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, 45, has also reiterated the rebels' demand for the release of more than 400 comrades currently in Peruvian jails.

Peru's President Fujimori has said all along that he would never accede to the rebels' demands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

Map of the South Pacific region showing the location of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and surrounding islands.

<b

Helicopter gunships shadow dawn mission across mountains to answer SOS

Secret operation by special forces rescues orphans

WHAT ended in the dramatic special forces rescue of the staff and children of a beleaguered British-run orphanage in southern Albania began for me with a strange phone call on Wednesday evening. As I ate supper in a hotel in Tirana a waitress handed me a mobile phone. "The voice on the other end was that of a British major I had met in the army ten years ago.

"Hello," he said. "Have you got a car and might you be able to drive it for us?" I said I would see what I could do.

There were several problems. First I had no car and would have to acquire one — difficult as it was curfew in a capital already tense after the unrest of the past two weeks. A loyal friend asked a few questions and instead gave me the keys and documents to her



Anthony Loyd reports how he left Tirana in a borrowed car to help to save 22 children at a British-run orphanage

rented Hertz car, a four-door Volvo.

Two men appeared in the foyer cradling holdalls and dressed in civilian clothes, and after picking up a couple more men, we arrived at the British Embassy. "Got life insurance, have you?" asked one soldier grinning. It was about all I had got — even the Volvo's fuel tank was as good as empty.

The group introduced themselves by their first names and the major explained the problem. I had guessed the logistical situation must have

been fairly desperate if they needed to call in a journalist with a borrowed car, but I could never have guessed how fraught with difficulties their mission was.

In the last three days the situation in southern and eastern Albania had deteriorated rapidly. Following an ultimatum by rebels for President Berisha to resign by yesterday or face possible attack in Tirana, many provincial towns, some of them previously untouched by violence, became torn by gangland fights.

In Elbasan, 38 miles south of Tirana, the situation had become especially bad. The vendetta killing of a youth in the town on Tuesday had acted as a catalyst for escalating violence in which the police, equipped with tanks and apparently loyal to no outside authority, joined an internecine fight among local mafia gangs whose arsenal had been supplemented with captured military weapons.

There was an orphanage for 22 Albanian children in the centre of it all, run by a British couple, Mike and Judy Smith, together with a Dutch lady Joanda Van Slooten and a small Albanian staff. The orphans included victims of child abuse and the abandoned offspring of prostitutes and emigrants. The eldest child was eight years old, the youngest, three months.

Though the Smiths, who have been in Albania for four years, had last week rejected

the offer of evacuation — as they wanted to remain with their charges — the sudden worsening of the situation made their position untenable. By Wednesday evening the town was degenerating into anarchy, with bullets from gun battles striking the orphanage walls. The Smiths rang the British Embassy in Tirana at 8.30pm and asked for help.

The mission was cleared by London, leaving the tiny group of British soldiers in the embassy with the unenviable task of getting into Elbasan by dawn, and out again safely to Tirana with 22 children, three expatriate staff and four Albanian girls. The troops had two vehicles at their disposal, a Land Rover and a mini-bus: hence the need for the rented Volvo.

Though the Smiths, who

had been in Albania for four years, had last week rejected



John Smith from Swansea holds one of the Albanian orphans rescued from Elbasan in a mission by a team of British special forces

Children are 'last Britons to leave'

BY ANTHONY LOYD

BRITISH special forces backed by helicopters yesterday mounted a successful operation to snatch 29 children and staff from an orphanage in southern Albania that was in danger of being overwhelmed by fighting as the region slid into a new wave of internecine conflict.

Though they had originally rejected an offer by the British Embassy to evacuate them last week, Mike and Judy Smith, the two 61-year-old Britons running the House of Hope, were forced by the revived level of conflict to request evacuation on Wednesday evening. They said

that gunfire was hitting the stone building and threatening the lives of the children. The Smiths and their charges were at a safe house near the embassy last night recovering from the ordeal, and awaiting confirmation of asylum in Britain, which they insist shall be only until the rebellion ends and they can return to Elbasan.

This now completes the operation for the evacuation of British, Irish and Commonwealth nations who want to leave Albania," said Captain Graham Wiltshire, temporary British defence attaché to Tirana.

Though the Smiths, who

have been in Albania for four years, had last week rejected

the offer of evacuation — as they wanted to remain with their charges — the sudden worsening of the situation made their position untenable. By Wednesday evening the town was degenerating into anarchy, with bullets from gun battles striking the orphanage walls. The Smiths rang the British Embassy in Tirana at 8.30pm and asked for help.

The mission was cleared by London, leaving the tiny group of British soldiers in the embassy with the unenviable task of getting into Elbasan by dawn, and out again safely to Tirana with 22 children, three expatriate staff and four Albanian girls. The troops had two vehicles at their disposal, a Land Rover and a mini-bus: hence the need for the rented Volvo.

Though the Smiths, who

have been in Albania for four years, had last week rejected

and two additional ones owned by the Smiths with the staff and children, and drove out again for the 90-minute journey back through the contested zone to Tirana. Two British Chinook helicopters,

no alternative: the clock was ticking against the orphans' fortunes.

A soldier took me aside and briefed me on the use of their weapons and equipment, which I remembered from my army service, in case push came to shove.

We departed at 8am. "If I buy it, for God's sake tell my wife I never loved her," one of the soldiers joked as we moved off, stalking southwards into the darkness along a crumbling road that climbed through dense fog and forest. At one point, a large Albanian police convoy emerged through the muck towards us. But it passed us without incident. As dawn shone its first light we broke through the mist. Elbasan lay beneath us in a waterlogged valley.

The early hour driving rain and cold had lent us advantage. Yet as we entered the town, the veneer of peace was

punctured by the sight of tanks marked "Police", stationed at road junctions on the empty streets; and soon the distant sound of automatic fire rippled into the quiet.

"You people certainly get some jobs," said Judy Smith as we backed the vehicles into the orphanage's courtyard and the troops, jacketed concealing chest webbing, moved off to guard the building. Tiny figures walked out into the daylight, grinning at the newly arrived men as the staff flustered around them pulling jackets over children's obstinate arms.

"It's got worse and worse here," Judy Smith added. "It began last week and then quietened until two days ago when the fighting started again. Bullets have been spraying around us."

With minimal fuss the children and staff were loaded into the vehicles. We pulled out of

the gates, now a convoy of five, and headed back out of the awakening town before its people realised the presence of the strangers among them.

I turned to look past the soldier beside me at the back of the Volvo: four small faces met my gaze, the arm of a young Albanian child mired around their shoulders. None of them looked back at the town.

The helicopters shadowed our route, finally lifting away as we entered Tirana. The embassy road was as deserted as when we left it little over three hours previously.

"Smooth one," a soldier said, as the major entered the room. Another trooper entered looking worried. "Er, Boss," he said. "Two of those kids upstairs ... they need their nappies changing."

Leading article and letters, page 21



American Express annual travel insurance from £59.

Because you never know who you'll meet on holiday.

No matter who you bump into on holiday, you can rest assured our comprehensive travel insurance covers almost every eventuality. What's more, you don't have to be an American Express Cardmember to enrol. So, call the number below quoting reference 776.

Single Trip Up to 17 days	Individual	Family Group (2 Adults)
Europe	£26.50	£57
Worldwide	£47	£108
Annual Cover Up to 26 days per trip	All annual insurance policies include up to 26 days free when you renew.	
Europe	£59	£95
Worldwide	£89	£127

Rates are available for those aged over 16.

0800 700 737

Certain conditions and eligibility limitations apply. Policy Terms and Conditions are available on request. American Express Services Europe Limited is an independent insurance company governed by the AIA code of conduct.



Insurance Services

Nuclear material smuggled to Italy in refugee exodus

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

PIER LUIGI VIGNA, Italy's top anti-Mafia prosecutor, yesterday held a summit in Bari of police chiefs from the main southern towns on how to tackle the crime wave which has followed the influx of well over 10,000 Albanian refugees, including the reported smuggling of radioactive material from Albania for sale on the "black" arms market.

Officials said ten "containers of radioactive material" had been stolen last Sunday by Albanians looting a "military-related installation" — believed to be an arms factory — at Fier, near Tirana. Officials declined to confirm that the smuggled consignment consisted of uranium or weapons-grade plutonium. "But we are not talking about radioactive waste," one official said.

Gazzetta del Sud, published in Calabria, quoted Italian secret service sources as saying the missing radioactive material was "in the Otranto area", and had been smuggled on one of the commando Albanian naval vessels that have arrived in southern Italy in the past week. The report said the material was "very dangerous" if not han-

dled properly. *Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno*, published in Bari, said the nuclear material had been smuggled by Albanian gangsters, who had a track record of smuggling with the Italian Mafia.

A police spokesman in Lecce said southern Italian ports had become a "gateway to Europe" for smuggled goods. "We have tried to raise the alarm, but no one listens. They will listen when it's too late," he said. The spokesman said high-quality cannabis was being grown for export in greenhouses near Vlore.

"So much marijuana has arrived in Italy in the past few days that the street price has dropped dramatically," he said. "There is also a huge trade in human beings. Many of the Albanian women coming to Italy end up as prostitutes under Mafia control."

Meanwhile, the Italian Foreign Ministry denied reports that Paolo Foresti, the Ambassador to Tirana for the past three years, was about to be replaced. A spokesman said Signor Foresti had been appointed Italy's Ambassador to the Western European Union (WEU), but would remain in Tirana until the present crisis was resolved.



Vigna: crisis talks on growing crime wave

Ministers ask EU for \$210m

FROM TOM WALKER
IN TIRANA

ALBANIA's new Government has asked the European Union for \$150 million (£94 million) to help to ease its balance of payments deficit. Ministry of Finance officials in the country said yesterday it also wants \$60 million to begin reconstructing its shattered tax, finance and customs structure.

The country is virtually incapable of raising any money. There are no customs offices — so trucks that manage to cross the border pay no tax — and mechanisms for taxing the population have all but disappeared.

The sources also had some bad news for southern rebels in Gjirokaster, who two days ago stole the state treasury safe but have been unable to dynamite it open. "I'm afraid it's empty," said an official.

There was relative calm in Tirana, the capital, yesterday, and a deadline set by the rebels for the resignation of President Berisha passed without comment. The rebels, led by Agim Gashi, a former army general, will meet today in Tepelene to discuss their next move.

WANT TO APPEAR IN A FEATURE FILM?

Wilde Films PLC is offering 750,000 of its shares for subscription under the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) to finance an up and coming British feature film based on the play "An Ideal Husband" by Oscar Wilde. The minimum investment is 1000 "B" ordinary shares of 50p each at a price of £1 per share. (minimum investment - £1000)

Investors benefits are:

• To appear in the film at an event and watch a day's shooting.

• Potential tax benefits of up to 60% under the EIS.

• Potentially capital gains tax free after five years.

Offer closes on 30th April 1997.

For a full prospectus call 01753 657029 or 01753 655085



Wilde Films PLC, Phoenix Studios, Phoenix Road, New Heath, Barking, Essex E6 4QH. Please note that (1) Levels and bases of taxation can change. (2) The above tax benefits are based on initial investment of 1000 "B" shares and deferral of gains for a further 40% applicable to a higher rate of taxation. (3) The offer is open to those who are not UK tax residents. (4) The offer is open to those who are not UK tax residents. (5) There is no recognised market for shares of Wilde Films PLC, so that it may be difficult for the investor to sell the shares or obtain reliable information about them or the value of the shares. (6) No dividends are offered. Approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Martin Hartman, solicitor, which is regulated by the Law Society to conduct insurance business.

Le BARGAIN way across the CHANNEL.

ONLY £149 RETURN (6 days+)

for travel any time in 1997.





If you can't talk about interior design, you're a nobody, says Joe Joseph

Forget sun-dried tomatoes, the new big thing is decorating

We all know the feeling, because if it hasn't already happened to you, it has almost certainly happened to someone you know. You come home and open the front door to be confronted by that chilling vision of rooms which have been stripped bare; not a TV set or video recorder left; no furniture; all your favourite knick-knacks gone; they've even taken the carpets. And then the icy truth dawns. An interior decorator has been in your flat. You have become a minimalist.

But if you don't like the look, don't worry. Unless you are Randolph Fiennes and are feeling homesick for the South Pole, there is no compulsion to paint and upholster absolutely everything in white. You don't

have to stick with minimalism any more than you have to stick with wearing only Versace or Karan every day. If tomorrow you want to switch to "Moroccan ethnic", there are a dozen books to advise you how to magic up the mood of Marrakesh in Morden.

Food? Oh, forget it. Stop flying to Tuscany every weekend to buy rare farmhouse olive oil that nobody else has heard of. The world has turned. Well-off thirty-somethings who already own 12 Armani suits, a Bulthaup kitchen, have memorised the *River Cafe Cookbook* and own a larder full of ingredients they can pronounce without taking Berlitz classes, have found a new craze they can whine about over dinner and spend their bonuses on: decorating.

Go take a look in your local

Waterstone's: it has been turned over to decorating manuals. The Conran Shop in London brims every Saturday morning with people who were weaned on *The Face* and *ID*: these people not only know the difference between Jasper Morrison and Tom Dixon, they care.

Whenever a shop site has fallen vacant over the past few years in chi-chi Notting Hill, in west London, a fancy boutique has opened the next morning. But the noisiest arrivals have been shops selling expensive modern furniture.

Once we were grateful for those sensible decorating tips you got from *Reader's Digest* (Example: "Don't scumble in public — it's rude"). Later, *World of Interiors* and *Elle Decoration* provided ideas for enthusiastic do-it-yourselfers

and voyeuristic entertainment for armchair decorators; then a few months ago the magazine *Wallpaper* — subtitled The Modern Homemaker — entered our lives, edited by the tastefully named Canadian style journalist Tyler Brûlé.

Brûlé, long-time partner of the shoe designer Patrick Cox, says interior design is being taken more seriously because people aren't looking at property as a way of making a quick buck, but as the cocaine in which they will be spending the next decade of their lives. His target market is women, gay men and rich City types, but the fascination with interiors has spread far, far wider.

We are all interior decorators now. So what if some new shop in Brewer Street sells the best prosciutto in England? Just tell us who hand-mixed

that authentic 18th-century emulsion in your hall.

Decorating is suddenly hipper than sex — and by decorating we don't mean putting up bookshelves you bought from Homebase. We mean a carefully thought-out room plan that makes a nod to Mies van der Rohe, but is at the same time undercut with a hint of knowing irony — the sort that says: "Hey, I know God is in the details, so when I invite people over to dinner I tell them what shade of sofa they will be sitting on so that all the colours don't jar."

Today we measure our lives not in coffee spoons but in Arne Jacobsen "Ant" chairs.

The coolest interiors in London and Manchester and Glasgow have become so

plastered with Day-Glo

coloured Ant chairs that when the backlash comes we will need to bring in Renotiki to deal with the infestation.

You find Modernism too bleak? There's room for you, too. Experiment with traditionally made paints. This week the specialist paint-maker Farrow & Ball launched a new collection of striped wall-papers in all the 95 colours from its National Trust and Archive paint ranges (using run-of-the-mill Dulux emulsion is like still using dried tomatoes in the kitchen). The new wall-papers are produced in the traditional 19th-century way and cost £26.95 a roll.

Apart from all the new decorating books, the surest sign that interior design has supplanted food as Britain's newest armchair hobby are the TV programmes devoted to the subject. BBC 2's *Home Front* draws audiences

falling sick because you have put everything in an insipidious place. Consult a feng shui expert first.

Feng shui is an oriental system of arranging furniture so as to improve your chances of being healthy, happy and rich. Big in America — Donald Trump uses it. The reason you haven't heard about it already is that you have been positioned in the wrong place — namely Europe.

For those of you who have not realised that a trend has been growing around your feet, here are some decorating tips gleaned from the latest manuals to get you over the initial bump of ignorance at your next dinner party.

Tribal is fashionable right now, but be careful: a person who is convinced he is living in a Victorian terrace house in Fulham will be upset to find that his neighbour's house has been turned into something homely enough for a family of Masai tribesmen.

Don't let toddlers dictate your decor, unless you are prepared to live with walls in a wipe-clean orangey-brown and a flecked carpet that already looks as if it is studded with squashed raisins.

Study kitchen design books and then yourself: can I count

- *Paint* by John Sundifield, (Frances Lincoln £25)
- *Paper Magic* by Jane Gordon-Clark, (Frances Lincoln £18.95)
- *Decorating Magic* by John Sundifield, (Frances Lincoln £18.95)
- *Paint Magic* by Jacasta Innes, (Frances Lincoln £20)
- *Instant Decorating* by Stewart Walton and Elizabeth Wilhite, (Comann Octopus £10.99)
- *The New Apartment Book* by Michele Michael, (Aurum £16.95)
- *Modern House* by John Welsh, (Phaidon £40)
- *Trade Secrets* by Jacasta Innes, (Phoenix £12.99)
- *Painted Furniture* by Jacasta Innes, (Mitchell Beasley £14.99)
- *The Ultimate Interior Designer* by Ruth Pretty, (Cassell £20)
- *Decorating Entrances, Stairways and*

- Chunky 50s coloured glassware
- Anything by Charles Eames, eg. butterfly chair, Vola taps, cutlery (must be the real thing)
- SMEG American stainless steel fridges
- Donna Karan scented candles
- Large fish tanks containing tropical fish
- Tom Dixon furniture and lighting
- Electric "Hampton Beach-style" bar blenders
- Gucci alarm clocks
- American electric juicers
- Muji Japanese storage containers in cardboard or plastic
- Kelly Hoppen — popularised smart ethnic
- Malcolm Beckett — Soho-style loft designer

- Purves & Purves, 80, 81 & 83 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-580 8223)
- Space, 214 Westbourne Grove, W1 (0171-229 6533)
- Tom Tom 70s, Finsbury, 42 New Compton St, WC2 (0171-240 7909)
- Aram Design, 3 Keane St, WC2 (0171-740 9333)
- 20th Century Design, 274 Upper St, N1 (0171-288 1996)
- Vaudou; I Summers St, EC1 (0171-278 8456)
- Mathmos, 179 Dury Lane, WC2 (0171-404 6605)

of your mortgage by six. This gives you a budget that you can be confident will make interior decorators shriek with amused derision.

There is a fashion for bold geometric paint schemes — a cross between retro-Prada and Bridget Riley. It's cheaper to stick with your current decor and drink heavily instead. Four large whiskies produce the same visual effect at considerably less cost.

Interior design is pricey, so work out what you can afford. You do this by dividing the size



Technicolor dream: from London to Glasgow, the coolest interiors are the ones with the most vibrant colour schemes

All things precious come in small quantities

Darjeeling tea. Grown in the foothills of the Himalayas and nurtured by the cool and moist climate of the sloping terrain, Darjeeling Teas are considered exclusive by connoisseurs the world over.

While India produces 40% of the world's black teas, Darjeeling accounts for only 3%. Ideal soil conditions, the right amount of rainfall

and the very air the bushes breathe give Darjeeling teas the finest and most delicate aroma.

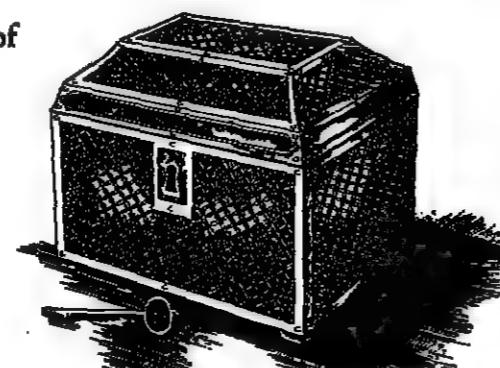
The ultimate luxury — a delicious cup of Darjeeling — with a slice of lemon or just a drop of milk. For people who like that 'unbeatable flavour' in their cup, only 100% Darjeeling will do.

In the good old days Darjeeling tea was a rare commodity. Today it is available in quality stores in attractive chestlets, tins or packets — loose leaf or tea bags. And to be sure you are drinking the real thing, look for the Darjeeling Logo on the pack — that is our seal of approval and your guarantee of quality.

For more information write to:

Tea Board of India,
India House,
Aldwych, London WC2.

India Tea
perfect anytime



It's cheaper
to keep
your old
decor and
drink a lot
instead'

of four million. It has been joined by *Changing Rooms* — a cross between *Blind Date* and *Candid Camera*, in which people redecorate their neighbour's house with the help of an interior designer.

In the pipeline for May is *Real Rooms*, on BBC1: decorating hit squads descend on a house and give it a makeover.

You still think interior decorating is just for the rich or the effete? Then look out for *Challenge Cheggers*, a programme scheduled to go out on BBC1 at 9.20am every morning from this autumn. In this, Keith Chegwin and his band of decorators and gardeners will descend on an unsuspecting street every week and give it a face lift.

What next? Probably Bruce Forsyth compering a game show in which celebrities (Ulrika Jonsson, Ben Elton, Sir George Solti) take on DIY experts to answer such questions as: "Starck is the name of what, (a) a French designer, (b) a German minimalist art movement, or (c) a wax used to lime oak?"

But don't rush ahead blindly. There's no point spending thousands rearranging your house only to find yourself

OR get up to £35,000

home contents cover with
no complicated
calculations.

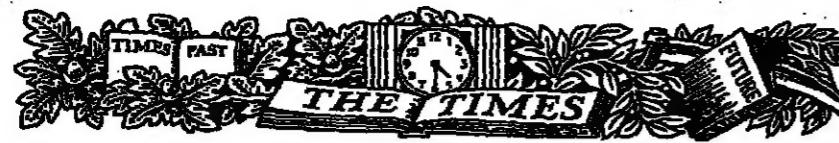
Interested? Call

0800 333 800

EAGLE STAR

Phone for a free home insurance quote weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturday 8am-2pm.





RIGHT TO KNOW

Parliament has been denied the chance to put its house in order

The House of Commons rises today with its reputation dangerously low. The final Prime Minister Question Time of this Parliament was a juvenile exercise — the politics of the sandpit. The cause was a serious matter, the failure of this Parliament to put itself in order before it presents itself to the people. The manner of the party leaders' disagreement did not match the importance of the matter at dispute. The current argument over "sleaze" may be presented by the Prime Minister as an opportunistic assault on the Tories, but popular concern with standards in public life is not defined by party boundaries.

Yesterday the body charged with regulating the Commons, the Standards and Privileges Committee, responded to the pressure for a proper treatment of "sleaze" allegations with a report which provoked more questions than it answered. Fifteen MPs were exonerated but the serious doubts hanging over Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith remain. Moreover, other MPs hitherto neglected may now be presumed guilty of misconduct in the absence of unambiguous assurance of their innocence. Far from lancing the boil, the infection has spread. It is in the interest of the accused MPs and the voters that the facts are known. The case for publication of Sir Gordon Downey's report is stronger than ever.

Caveats have been entered. The Privileges Committee yesterday reminded the Commons that publication of Sir Gordon's report would not end matters. Those members found to be at fault would have the right to make further representations before a final conclusion was reached. Such a process, they laconically conclude, "could take a considerable time". Apologists for the Government argue that even if the prorogation of Parliament were delayed to allow the committee to receive Sir Gordon's report it would not then have that "considerable time" to consider the report.

HELLO, HELLO, DOLLY, DOLLY

Here is a Commons committee working as committees should

Dolly, the cloned sheep which is now almost as famous as her namesake Dolly Parton, burst upon a world whose psyche had been thoroughly prepared by the powerful images of science fiction. Ever since Mary Shelley whiled away a wet summer writing Frankenstein, the vision of the crazed scientist creating life in a test-tube has been a staple of the genre. The fevered public reaction to Dolly cloned is thus both understandable, and a tribute to the power of literature to shape the mind.

More sober reflections have come from the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Commons, which has shown an uncomorn dispatch in producing a report on the Dolly breakthrough. The report contains much good sense, in urging that the instinctive reaction of horror at the prospect of human cloning should not be allowed to cloud the real prospects of benefit that come from cloning animals. These include producing medicinal proteins from the milk of genetically engineered animals, a better understanding of human development and disease, improving the productivity of animals in agriculture and, more speculatively, the possibility of cloning not human beings, but human organs.

The committee — save Sir Trevor Skeet, who provides a minority report of his own — is agreed that the regulatory regime in Britain is well-fitted to cope with the challenges of cloning. Unlike the United States, where the subject appears to have been given little thought, Britain already has a framework of law, and institutions in the form of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and the new Human Genetics Advisory Commission, which itself owes its existence to the persistence of the

Commons committee in advocating it. Between these two, this country should not fail for the lack of well-considered advice.

The committee says that human cloning using the Roslin technique should be illegal, if it is not so already. Doubts arise over the legal interpretation of the word embryo. The 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act bans human cloning using embryos, but the Roslin method uses adult material, combined with an enucleated egg. Is this an embryo? Legal opinion is being sought, but this is not enough for the committee, which wants Parliament to amend the law to remove loopholes. The problem, of course, is that science may discover yet more cloning methods, which would necessitate yet further changes. Tweaking of the law may be needed, but Parliament should also heed the advice of Ruth Deech, chairman of the HFEA, who warned the committee that the law should be kept flexible to accommodate future scientific developments.

The committee has some sharp words for the embattled Ministry of Agriculture, which celebrated the cloning of Dolly by cutting its funding to the Roslin Institute. Cavalier and blinkered are the words the committee uses to describe this action, and they cannot be improved upon. Given its record over BSE — where far too little was spent on research — and *E. coli*, where good scientific advice was ignored, it is plain that research management is not the ministry's strong point. Its reluctance to share data with outside researchers is another blot on its record. The committee is right to call for a full-scale investigation during the next Parliament of the ways in which the ministry commissions and uses research and scientific advice.

OUR MAN IN OUR VOLVO

When a correspondent goes beyond the call of duty

Journalists are supposed to stay apart from the events that they describe. But sometimes, like our man in Albania yesterday, they cannot. Anthony Loyd tells his own story on page 16 of how he was co-opted by special forces for a desperate evacuation of an orphanage at Elbasan. This was a feral operation in a perilous place. It was carried out darkly at dead of night, in body armour and with the *Times* Volvo driving shotgun. It was the sort of story-book experience that happens to journalists' subjects, not normally to journalists themselves. And unlike so many newspaper stories it has a happy ending. All the orphans were safely rescued.

Journalists come in all shapes. Our man in our Volvo is characteristic of a line of foreign correspondents stretching back intermittently over two centuries. Since, unlike his TV colleagues, he is not a familiar face we should say that he is a pony-tailed former Greenjacket and bushwhacker aged 30, that he fought in the Gulf War and that his great-grandfather won a Victoria Cross at the Somme. Like the most famous of all our war reporters, William Howard Russell, his job includes taking calculated risks on the dangerous edge of things.

Russell of the Crimea is known by name. Because of archaic convention and for reasons of security, the names of the other war correspondents were unknown to the newspaper's readers safely away from the drums and the guns. Theirs was the famous

byline "From Our Own Correspondent". But sometimes they were not only "our" and more than just a correspondent. Ferdinand Eber arrived in Sicily as Garibaldi began his long march on Rome, and was appointed a general of the insurgents. Although the writers of this column disapproved, they needed his stirring copy and kept him on. In the Balkans J. D. Bourié was depicted on a stamp in Bulgarian national costume and holding a gun. Crabb Morrison at Corunna, China Morrison in Peking and many other *Times* correspondents helped to make history as well as the edition.

Some, tragically, died in the danger. Frank Power had his throat cut at Khartoum. Walter Harris, Our Special Correspondent in Morocco, was thrown into a cell full of decapitated bodies, and only escaped decapitation himself by a hair. Frank Riley was murdered in 1927 covering the civil war in China.

War correspondents tend to be bad risks for life, motor or any other insurance. But being a good risk is not the accolade they seek. "I wonder what would have come of it had I followed the quiet path instead of noisy drums and trumpets", wrote Russell in his later years. He did not care too much what the answer might have been. Nor do we. Our own correspondents still sometimes march towards the sound of the gunfire, find the news and file the copy. And we who read it should occasionally salute them.

Election brickbats and boasts, propaganda and pledges

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury

Sir, It is Labour's Alistair Darling (letter, March 19) who deceives himself over the economic performance of the last 18 years. His claim that the Government has centralised power on an "unparalleled level" ignores the devolution of power from often highly politicised local authorities to schools and from the incompetent central government economic planners of the 1970s to industry and consumers.

There is nothing recklessly novel in calling for Sir Gordon's report to be published upon completion. The report of Lord Nolan's Commission into Standards in Public Life

recommended that Sir Gordon have the power to "make findings and conclusions public" in the same way as the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration.

The Prime Minister stopped his ears yesterday to arguments for openness and chose instead to see current anger over the suppression of the Downey report as a creation of the Labour Party, manufactured to divert attention from falling unemployment. It is certainly the case that Tony Blair scents blood, but that is because the Prime Minister shot himself in the foot.

John Major treated the genuine concern of the Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes as a matter for levity. Mr Hughes queried the suppression of Sir Gordon's report in the Commons, and *The Times* called for publication in this column, before the announcement of any unemployment figures. It is Parliament's name, not the advantage of any party, that matters. If the Prime Minister had delayed Parliament's rising in order to facilitate publication of Sir Gordon's report, then he might have gone some way to restoring faith in the ability of the Commons to regulate itself. In treating concern so cavalierly, however, the Prime Minister has done both his party and Parliament a disservice.

His claim that the UK growth rate since 1979 is less than that achieved under Labour conveniently evades the fact that the 1970s were a higher growth, but also a much higher inflation era. Our growth is now much closer to the EU average. Just as important, we have moved from the bottom of the league of G7 countries for manufacturing-productivity growth in the 1960s and 1970s to the top since 1980. That was why the independent National Institute for Economic and Social Research recently proclaimed that we had closed our competitiveness gap with Germany.

Most ludicrous is Mr Darling's claim on debt. The national debt has been lower every single year under this Government than in any year under Labour and is the lowest of all major EU countries. We have also borrowed at, on average, half the level of the last Labour Government.

No one would claim that governments do not make mistakes, but the fact is that Britain's very long-term decline has been halted in the past 18 years — which might explain why Mr Darling's party has so hurriedly had to abandon most of its central economic policies and adopt the Government's own tax and spending plans.

Yours faithfully,
PHILLIP OPPENHEIM,
House of Commons.
March 19.

From Mr David Gale

Sir, Your leading article today states that "Mr Major's desire to maintain the highest standards in public life is conspicuous". Yet he has presided over the most conspicuously disreputable Government of my (62 years)

Nato enlargement

From Mr P. J. Riddell

Sir, Western reaction to Russia's hostility towards an extended Nato (leading article, March 20) reminds me uncomfortably of the Versailles Treaty's attitude towards Germany after the First World War.

I believe it would be a grave mistake to consider Russia to have been defeated in the Cold War. Rather, it has emerged from an experiment with a philosophy which has proved to be flawed, but the experience of which has nevertheless something to teach the world.

In any case, we should beware of humiliating a nation and riding rough-shod over legitimate concerns which can only stir up trouble for future generations.

Yours sincerely,
P. J. RIDDELL,
12a Norham Road, Oxford.
March 20.

From Lord Kennet

Sir, Last Friday you published letters from Professor Sir Michael Howard, our foremost historian, and Sir Frank Cooper, a most distinguished former Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence (March 14), each warning that the Government's unexplained drive for Nato expansion is pointless and dangerous.

On the same day I raised a mini-debate on Nato enlargement in the House of Lords. It lasted 90 minutes. I had ten minutes to speak, Lord Chesham, the non-specialist whip who was answering instead of any minister, had 15. He ended: "I have considerably more to say, but... time has caught up with me." The 12 other speakers had five minutes each. It had been a fight to get that.

Lord Chesham also said: "No issue has higher priority in Britain's foreign policy." He spoke of democracy and transparency and, answering none of the questions raised, limited himself, in Sir Frank's words, to "assertions".

Why has Nato's future remained undiscussed in either House of Parliament except for a 90-minute airing in the Commons three weeks ago and this one Lord's debate, both on the initiative of backbenchers? The Foreign Office does not even know if the matter has been examined in other parliaments.

What was Nato supposed to defend? Was it democracy?

Yours etc.
KENNET.
House of Lords.
March 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Film censor's duty 'to uphold values'

From Mr Peter M. Noonan

Sir, I was dismayed to see that the British Board of Film Classification has approved the showing of the film *Crash* (report, March 19).

You report that in coming to its decision the board obtained the professional opinions of a QC who specialises in obscenity cases and a forensic psychiatrist. But such "expert" advice should not, in my view, be put forward as justification for the board's conclusions.

The public expects its film censors to project the mores and values of British society by the application to questions of decency of simple common sense.

Film makers expect the censors' policies to be clear and consistent. Time perhaps for the censors to be censured?

Yours faithfully,
PETER NOONAN,
Palm Beach, 21 Orchard Hill,
Rudgwick, West Sussex.
March 19.

From Councillor Robert Moreland

Sir, You report the legal adviser to the British Board of Film Classification as stating that the "average viewer" would reject the values of the film *Crash*.

The real concern is not the "average viewer", or indeed the majority of viewers, who no doubt will reject the values of the film and, hopefully, will find it repulsive. The concern of those of us who viewed the film for Westminster Council is the effect on those — no doubt a minority — who could be influenced by the values of the film. If one person takes seriously the message expressed by one character, that road crashes "stimulate", then there should be public concern.

I see no public benefit — or enjoyment — in showing the film, at least without the cuts suggested by Westminster City Council.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MORELAND,
(Councillor for Knightsbridge),
Westminster City Council,
Victoria Street, SW1.
March 19.

Voices in the House

From Mr J. S. Roche

Sir, It is always unwelcome to disagree with Betty Boothroyd, but there are strong constitutional arguments against her ruling on pages in the Commons (report, March 13). The issue is a much wider one than just the noise of an interruption, as clearly a page could be silent and the information it provided, deadly.

The real question is the unrealism of the assumption that — unlike traders, bankers, doctors, civil servants or most other professionals — MPs should be expected to be expertly briefed beforehand on all matters that could conceivably arise in the chamber, or in committee. Clearly they cannot.

Is it right to deny MPs the opportunity to make better, more informed contributions to debate as a result of information that they can be provided by researchers whilst debates are in progress? Democracy will ultimately be the poorer if those who control the practices of the House of Commons do not recognise that legislation is better made through expertise than rhetoric. Please think again, Madam Speaker.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. ROCHE,
19 Cabot Drive, Dibden,
Southampton, Hampshire.

U-boat secrets

From Dr P. J. Horsey

Sir, The retrieval of U559's codebooks in November 1942 (Ralph Erskine's letter, March 18) involved all three members of HMS *Petard*'s crew stripping naked and diving into the rough sea in darkness to reach the submarine. Tommy Brown was a boy assistant to the Naiqi captain manager and therefore a civilian. It was he who handed the codebooks to the seabat's crew. The submarine sank suddenly when he was at the top of the ladder leading to the control room and he was the only one to be picked up.

When his age (16) became known he was sent home and lost his life 10 years later while attempting to save his infant sister from a fire which engulfed his South Shields home. His George Medal was well deserved and it would be interesting to know what became of it.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HORSEY,
The Old Manor,
Ashley, Stockbridge, Hampshire.

Tunnels questioned

From Dr Martin R. Cragg

Sir, The proposal from David Green, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers (letter, March 11), that London's traffic problems can be solved by an underground network of tunnels is certainly innovative but I would suggest impracticable.

Tunnelling unfortunately is a very expensive solution and in London probably so, given the enormous related cost of diverting services, including the Underground network. The associated works would also be extremely disruptive to traffic over the many years of construction.

All the political parties are supportive of a sustainable transport policy. We should seek to contain or even reduce private vehicular movement, not to foster it, and to encourage more environmentally friendly modes of transport, namely (light) rail, bus, cycling and walking.

Travel into central London is ideally suited to public transport as the routes are radial. The difficulty is in coping with orbital movements, especially in outer London, which cannot easily be provided by public transport and for which tunnelling is unlikely to help. In any event, by comparison with other major European cities, London's traffic moves relatively freely.

As Mr Green suggests, tolling could be an important source of funds. But any money available for improving transport in London should be largely earmarked for the long overdue im-

provements in public (sustainable) transport and traffic management schemes.

Yours truly,
MARTIN CRAGG
(Chief Executive and Secretary),
The Institution of Highways and
Transport, 6 Endsleigh Street, WC1.

From Lord Berkeley

Sir, As a member of his institution, I applaud David Green's efforts to secure work for his members, but is his idea really a transport priority?

A tunnel to carry 5,000 passengers per hour in their cars would probably cost five to ten times the cost of one to carry the same number in trains under ground, and cause much greater environmental damage.

I suggest that his institution should direct its energies to promoting projects which have some chance of being realised, such as Thameslink 2000, Crossrail along the East London Line extension, along with a comprehensive network of bus lanes and transport interchanges. These will do much more to improve the quality of life in London, and at a much lower cost, than a rabbit warren of road tunnels.

Yours etc.
BERKELEY
(Chairman, Railfreight Group),
House of Lords.
March 19.

Too close for comfort

From Mr Robin Findley

Sir, I suggest that Sir George Cooper (letter, March 17) need not worry unduly about the letter he received signed by a lady calling herself the Head of Fulfilment... at least, not until he opens one — as I did this morning — from a lady describing herself as Operational Quality.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN FINDLEY,
10 Glebe Road, Cheam, Surrey.
March 17.

OBITUARIES

WILLEM DE KOONING

Willem de Kooning, artist, died on March 19 aged 92. He was born on April 24, 1904.

Willem de Kooning was the last surviving giant of modern art. He was at the centre of the American art movement known as Abstract Expressionism, which started in the 1940s in New York and went on to dominate American and European contemporary art for the next twenty years.

Abstract Expressionism was about liberation, freeing art from the things it no longer needed. It had its genesis in the experience of a generation which had spent its youth in a major economic depression and its young adulthood in a world war. It was personal and self-revelatory in style, yet evoked timeless emotions, fears and beliefs.

Even after its passing, right up to the art of today, the movement continues to exert a powerful influence. The styles that followed it, and which were in various ways reactions against it — Pop Art, Conceptualism and Minimalism, for example — all drew heavily on attitudes that were already in place in the Abstract Expressionist aesthetic, namely radical doubt and a profoundly ambivalent love-hate relationship with the past.

De Kooning's work went through considerable changes in his long life. He never lost touch altogether with figuration, but recognisable things seemed to come and go in his paintings. He painted pictures that were harsh angular abstracts, with gritty surfaces, which were understood to be metaphors for modern urban life. Other pictures were flowing and lyrical, with sweet, rich colour, and these were seen as poetic amalgams of natural landscape forms and the female body.

De Kooning himself changed too, from the art history book figure who reinvented the heroic early Modernism of Picasso and Matisse, recasting it for a new age, living in poverty until well into his forties; to the cultural icon, the Marlon Brando of the 1950s art world, good-looking in a T-shirt; achieving sudden and enormous wealth and fame; to the vulnerable man who descended into a semi-hell of drink and tranquillisers, but went on turning out works of startling originality, grace and beauty until old age and chronic illness finally caused him to stop working.

His style was to improvise extraordinary visual events. The improvising was high-energy and aggressive, an endless process of making, erasing and remaking. He famously alternated long bouts of frenzied activity with periods of staring and worrying. The final results are compelling. The pictures cannot be pinned down. They look ugly and elegant at the same time, direct and revealing, yet strange and ambiguous, too.

Willem de Kooning was born in Rotterdam, Holland. He was apprenticed at the age of 12 to a local company of commercial artists run by the decorators Jan and Jaap Gidding. His talent prompted Jaap to arrange for him to attend night classes at the local art and craft school, the *Akademie voor Beeldende en Technische Wetenschappen*. There, over a period of eight years as a pupil, he acquired a strict academic training and a wide range of craft skills.

Graduating in 1926, he also attended art schools in Brussels and Antwerp. In art theory, the de Stijl group around Mondrian and Van Doesburg was then predominant. From 1920 to 1926, de Kooning worked as assistant to Bernard Romain, art director of a Rotterdam department store.

Setting his sights, however, on America (where Mondrian himself was to arrive years later in 1940), de Kooning, after several unsuccessful attempts, arrived in the United States as a stowaway in 1926. Working first as a house painter in Hoboken, New Jersey, he moved to New York in 1927, taking a variety of jobs in decorating, signwriting, carpentry, commercial art and stage design.

In the next few years de Kooning, who had become a "Sunday painter", became friends with Arshile Gorky, the Russian painter who had arrived in the US in 1920 and who was then teaching in New York School".

In the early 1940s, de Kooning's studies of women lost their realistic appearance and began to mingle with the background paint and colours. In the mid-1940s his paintings grew more violent, with accident increasingly determining their composition. Sometimes collage was used to break them up, and in 1946 he embarked on a series of even more violent black-and-white paintings, done with cheap household enamels, which marked the final disappearance of recognisable form in his work. His first one-artist exhibition was at the Egan Gallery in 1948, although he had already shown with other artists such as Jackson Pollock.

By 1950 the Abstract Expressionist movement was well under way. Pollock, de Kooning, Gorky, Cly福德 Still, Mark Rothko and Barnett Newman had made a name for themselves. The gestural freedoms of de Kooning and Hans Hofmann, especially, inspired a new generation.

And since up-and-coming artists could enrol in Hofmann's art school on Eighth Street and meet de Kooning any night at the Cedar Street Tavern or around East Tenth Street, they became the "New York School".

De Kooning was a brilliant and passionate conversationalist, and was admired by the younger generation for his integrity and dedication to art, and for his risk-taking — or "going for broke", in the language of the times. He was imitated right across America.

Despite all his experience of abstraction in his own and his friends' work, human reference never quite disappeared from de Kooning's art. His art seemed to develop under conflicting pressures. He said that it is absurd to paint a human image but just as absurd not to. He wanted to stay ahead of his critics, to escape their pigeonholing. But at the same time he wanted to play with them, to draw them along.

Having achieved notoriety with what might be described as a kind of allusive abstraction, he suddenly lurched, in the early 1950s, into what seemed like full-blown figurative "Women" paintings.

For all their spontaneous appearance as savage, demonic daubs, de Kooning's female images have often a long history of radical daily repaintings and changes of mood. His own awareness of tradition — in contrast to the self-consciously independent attitude of some of the more "American" painters of the New York School — and strong sense of composition are always present.

De Kooning said that art never made him feel "peaceful or pure". Instead he was always "wrapped up in the melodrama of vulgarity". And his art over the next thirty years was indeed a triumph of impurity. In the 1960s and 1970s, when he was no longer at the centre of art world discussion, the women became more comic and cartoon-like, the landscapes more melted and misty, the brushwork more liquid and glutinous, the colour more blurred and effused. For some years after 1969, de Kooning took up sculpture.

Many critics have argued that de Kooning's work declined after the 1950s. As his fame grew and his market value rose, he became increasingly isolated from critics and other artists. He had moved out of Manhattan to a quiet, purpose-built studio home in Long Island. His behaviour became erratic and self-destructive. The colours were reduced to stark primaries and white, and where there had been rich, atmospheric spaces, there was now a recurring flat, almost diagrammatic configuration, part female anatomy, part landscape. The shapes were like schematic versions of his earlier paintings, and in fact many of them were based on slide projections of earlier works.

But were these pictures really "de Koonings" at all? He had painted them, but was he really himself at the time? How far back had he become ill? He could no longer sign his own name when many of them were executed. Surely, it was objected, significant art is not just a matter of unfeigned emotion and creativity, but also on a build-up of knowledge and experience, on high mental alertness?

The critical and philosophical speculations that the pictures aroused when they appeared were thrown into lurid relief by the fact that their market value was in the region of a million dollars per painting, and that there were known to be about three hundred of them. A number were gathered together at the Museum of Modern Art in New York earlier this year, and the reception was mixed.

In the end it may be that de Kooning's last great flowering — his period of late greatness, like the famous late periods of Matisse or Titian, say — was not the 1980s but the 1970s.

This was the time when he perhaps felt most free from outside pressures, and was able — physically, emotionally and spiritually — to make something unique and significant out of that freedom.

Elaine Marie Catharine Fried, whom de Kooning married in 1943 and who Elaine de Kooning won her own considerable reputation as a painter and writer, died in 1989. De Kooning is survived by his daughter.



De Kooning was a brilliant and passionate conversationalist, and was admired by the younger generation for his integrity and dedication to art, and for his risk-taking — or "going for broke", in the language of the times. He was imitated right across America.

Despite all his experience of abstraction in his own and his friends' work, human reference never quite disappeared from de Kooning's art. His art seemed to develop under conflicting pressures. He said that it is absurd to paint a human image but just as absurd not to. He wanted to stay ahead of his critics, to escape their pigeonholing. But at the same time he wanted to play with them, to draw them along.

Having achieved notoriety with what might be described as a kind of allusive abstraction, he suddenly lurched, in the early 1950s, into what seemed like full-blown figurative "Women" paintings.

For all their spontaneous appearance as savage, demonic daubs, de Kooning's female images have often a long history of radical daily repaintings and changes of mood. His own awareness of tradition — in contrast to the self-consciously independent attitude of some of the more "American" painters of the New York School — and strong sense of composition are always present.

De Gaulle was fascinated by Africa. Although he had granted independence to colonies in West and Central Africa he saw these states as essential backing for France's role in the world and in forums such as the UN. Foccart, who listed his occupation as "exporter", as well as Secretary-General for the French Community and African Affairs, engaged in the daily task of maintaining harmonious and profitable relations with France's African supporters, notably the long-time Ivory Coast leader, Félix Houphouët-Boigny. Foccart's main listening post was in Dakar, Senegal, the one-time capital of French West Africa.

President Pompidou retained his services, but Giscard d'Estaing, implicated in a diamonds scandal with Bokassa, did not. President Chirac rehired Foccart upon his election in 1995, and the old Africa hand once again had an official office. He certainly had Chirac's ear and helped to perpetuate the system whereby African policy is dictated by the Elysée and not by the Quai d'Orsay.

His power was such that French police officers were persuaded to take part in the abduction (and, almost certainly, the murder) in Paris in 1965 of Mehdi Ben Barka, the Moroccan opposition leader, a secret service man, telling them "Foccart is in the picture".

He was a founder of the notorious Service d'Action Civique, the Gaullist Party's internal police force, later accused by the Americans of engaging in drug trafficking. To these and other accusations Foccart would reply that de Gaulle would not have kept him for 24 hours, let alone 24 years, if any of the charges had been true.

He was predeceased by his wife Isabelle.

They loved, but nobody seemed to like them to love, and to ensure their parting until the last scene, a murder, of which the hero was soon falsely accused, was committed on the stage. There were more farewells, and in the second act the lovers said "Goodbye" again but at last all ended happily. Apart from the protracted farewells, the plot is quite effective, and has considerably more substance than one is led to expect in this kind of production.

Two things were especially impressive last night. One was the music, which was much more ambitious than the normal musical comedy score. It is the work of Mr. Rudolf Friml and Mr. Herbert Stothart. The second was the amazing "mass drill" of the members of the chorus, more than 100 in number who, in one song especially ("Totem Tom") was its name, roused the audience to unusual enthusiasm. The singing throughout, both of the chorus and the principals, was unusually good. The piece was received with enthusiasm.

JACQUES FOCCART



Some of his protégés, however, proved to be disasters, none more so than the late self-styled Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, of the Central African Republic-cum-Empire, who was later overthrown but settled in France like so many other ex-dictators, some of whom lived in style on the Riviera.

Foccart, who had founded the Gaullist movement's own paramilitary organisation, thrived on secrecy and the nature of his ties, for example, to Colonel Bob Denard, tragicomic leader of several African coups d'état, was never clear. He always told interviewers that they could read everything later in the archives. The only boast he could not resist was that he had held an estimated 3,000 tête-à-tête meetings with de Gaulle over the eleven-year period between de Gaulle's return to power in 1958 and his resignation.

De Gaulle was the guiding force in the life of Foccart, who was born into a family of prosperous farmers and then raised in Guadeloupe where the family also had land. Later, in France, he went into business — notably the sale of Renault cars in the French West Indies — and did well.

The destiny of this short, rather rotund, fantastically-dressed provincial businessman was changed by the war. He organised parachute drops on behalf of the secret service branch of the Free French in London. After the Liberation, he had his own office in the Elysée with overall responsibility for African affairs and the secret services. He had direct access to de Gaulle and it was said

that, when another general's putsch in Algiers in 1961 threatened de Gaulle's hold on power, the French President entrusted important state papers and "fall-back" emergency plans to Foccart. De Gaulle always referred to Foccart as "le Pepe Joseph", a title of approval denoting his possessing many of the secretive and serviceable qualities of Cardinal Richelieu's original éminence grise of that name.

De Gaulle and Foccart both loathed transparency. The former considered secrecy an indispensable part of the mystique of power, the latter a necessary tool in his dealings, which included an about turn on Algérie française, which he supported, and then adapting to sub-Saharan decolonisation.

His power was such that French police officers were persuaded to take part in the abduction (and, almost certainly, the murder) in Paris in 1965 of Mehdi Ben Barka, the Moroccan opposition leader, a secret service man, telling them "Foccart is in the picture".

He was a founder of the notorious Service d'Action Civique, the Gaullist Party's internal police force, later accused by the Americans of engaging in drug trafficking.

To these and other accusations Foccart would reply that de Gaulle would not have kept him for 24 hours, let alone 24 years, if any of the charges had been true.

PERSONAL COLUMN

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

GERMANY Daily low cost flights to and from Germany. Tel: 0171-429 2000. ASTA 40465.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

FRANCE 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with option to buy from only £25 per month. Tel: 0171-531 5761.

100's of new and second hand pianos for sale or hire with

NEWS

Major lets rip at Blair and Ashdown

■ John Major unleashed a venomous assault on Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown yesterday that reflected his belief that they had hijacked the final days of Parliament with a stage-managed row over sleaze.

Mr Major delivered a personal tirade against Mr Blair, accusing him of trading on double standards from the moment he was elected Labour leader. He then turned on the Lib-Dem leader, telling him that he was ending the Parliament as pious and pompous as he had been throughout it. Pages 1, 8, 9

Ten MPs who have to wait

■ As the Commons rises today, ten Tory MPs have investigations hanging over them. A Commons investigation into accusations against 25 MPs failed yesterday to decide on the ten, including Neil Hamilton. Page 1

Home help cut

In a judgment that dismayed organisations representing the infirm, the House of Lords said councils can stop providing disabled people with home help if budgets are used up. Page 1

Shares tumble

London shares suffered their biggest one-day fall, with the FT-SE 100 index closing 74.1 points lower at 4,258.1. Pages 1, 25

'Right to die' case

In what is seen as a new "right to die" test case, the most senior family judge will rule today on whether a severely brain-damaged former university student should be allowed to die. Page 2

Barrister's fall

The Hon Hugh Donovan, the barrister son of a former Law Lord, faces professional disgrace after he repeatedly vandalised a Porsche 911 and a Range Rover belonging to neighbours after a parking dispute. Page 3

Cell-block candidate

Roisin McAliskey, an IRA bombing suspect, declared she would contest her mother Bernadette's old Mid-Ulster seat from her London prison cell. Page 4

Portugal challenged

The Foreign Office demanded a full report from Portuguese police who opened fire on Manchester United fans with rubber bullets. Pages 5, 20

The chinos man makes his mark

■ The woolly cardigan, with buttons down the front, is dead as a male fashion statement. For years, cardigans have been one of 600 items whose costs are monitored to compile the retail price index. But they have now been dropped from the statistician's shopping basket in favour of chinos. Light and pale ale have gone too, replaced by beer cans with widgets. Page 1



Helen Sharman, left, the first Briton to travel in space on a US mission, and Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman launched into space 34 years ago in a Russian military rocket, met yesterday at The Royal Institution of Great Britain

BUSINESS

Shares Norwich Union is to issue 1.3 billion free shares to 2.9 million members as part of a proposed £5 billion flotation in June. Page 25

Inflation: The retail price index fell again in February. Headline inflation edged lower to 2.7 per cent from 2.8 per cent in January while underlying inflation fell to 2.9 per cent from 3.1 per cent. Page 25

Insurer: Legal & General has suggested a resolution to the long-running pensions mis-selling scandal of the late 1980s. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Motor: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling 28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising 36 pence to DM2.6886. Page 25

Leisure: The FT-SE 100 index fell 74.1 points to 4,258.1.